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↠ T h r u s h p e l t ' s T a l e ↞

Goosefeather's sees things that haven't even happened yet, but what if one of the future scenes can be changed?

As a young cat of ThunderClan, Thrushpelt does not trouble himself much about the quarrel between RiverClan with the useless rocks or the prey-stealers at both WindClan & ShadowClan. What he just wants is a life well lived, maybe get a mate and have kits, and then watch his kits have their own kits.

But he brings himself into a hole in the middle of the forest's problem..metaphorically, and instead of going around it, he jumps in and brings himself deep in the darkness. As he realizes that this wasn't a shallow ditch.

It was a dark, rocky tunnel, where he may only find the light if *he moves.*.

Join Thrushpelt in an unusual story, as he joins more groups, does more things, and becomes a character that changes the timeline of events in ThunderClan..

- -

Book #1 in the "Warriors Switchenario Series"

Started Writing: July 26, 2020
Finished Writing: A/N

Credits:
[Cover created by: @me]

↠ I n t r o d u c t i o n ↞

Hello and welcome to the furst page of this book!

I'm so glad you decided to check this one out, among all the other Warriors books here on Wattpad.

Before you start reading, I wanna inform ya'll that **Warriors does NOT belong to me.** The ones who created it were the **Erins**, otherwise known as **Erin Hunter**.

Also, **Thrushpelt** is a cannon character. He is not an oc of mine, this is just an *alternate-universe or au I made.

** An "alternate-universe" or "au" is a sequence of events in the Warriors history that are tweaked a bit or fully changed by someone that is different from what actually happened and is obviously **not cannon** . Sometimes also purrsonality and/or roles of characters are changed or maybe killed off as a new pathway of the story is created. People otherwise known as 'fans' do this if :*

A.) They are not satisfied with the consequences/life/actions of a character.

B.) If the whole story or at least one part of it is very unpleasant for the reader so they decided to remake it themselves.

C.) If they're bored and wanna make this character or story more interesting.

This one is about Thrushpelt from **Bluestar's Prophecy**. The fact that I made this book is beacause I really had taken a liking to him and cannot accept the fact of how he was written in the actual book.

Also becuz I'm bored this quarantine too, lmao.

So, I written a version of my own.

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Notes:

> The characters & places does not belong to me. I'm just making an **au** story.

> You **Have to *read* Bluestar's Prophecy/Spottedleaf's Heart (this one is optional)** to understand what's happenning here. To those who haven't read these yet, **spoiler warning**.

> There are some scenes that will be changed because Thrushpelt's purrsonality is more enhanced so he'll change the course of the path (or maybe make other characters hit realization about something.) So don't rely on Warriors Wikipedia.

> The timelines in this story have huge leaps. You need to remember that so that you won't get confused when a kit can be suddenly a warrior or elder in two chapters next.

> Some chapters will be really really short (500 minimum for me), others would be long (almost 3k words or more). I'm writing this AU just becuz I'm bored yet inspired. Deep down I'm still a lazy kittypet that just wants to finish it already before the "*inspiration juice*" in my brain runs out.

> Do **NOT** try to **rewrite, copy-paste, claim** this au story because that's offending. If it is however similar to yours..I promise, I didn't know nor mean for it to be.

And that's about it.

Have fun reading!!

↠ P r o l o g u e ↞

It Was Greenleaf.

This one of the hottest days of this season. Greenleaf was one of the best ones among them four. Prey was rich and the sun brought warmth into the dens, making the elders happy and less grumpy. But besides the quality source of food, water and shelter that is very good, this season is one of the safest time for queens to have kits.

At one part of a land, filled with trees, bracken, brambles and burrows lies the forest territory of ThunderClan. Everyone should have been going about their daily errands, but today was an exception.

Loud pained yowls filled the air.

"Where in StarClan's name is that apprentice?" The medicine cat growled as her white fur ruffled stressfully at every move as her irises sharpen and her tail flick to and fro. The queen moaned in pain as another wave spasmed through her.

"Got it," a voice of a tom mewed from the entrance of the nursery. He was a gray tom with darker gray speckles, he had pale blue eyes which gleamed in the dark shadow that wasn't hit by the rays of the sun which had started to sink from the sky a while ago.

"Goosefeather, give it to her quickly! I swear you're as slow as a plump elder.." Goosefeather told the queen to bite down hard on the stick that he brought, if she felt in pain. Cloudberry urged her to push, the queen's body trembling as something little came out.

Goosefeather was not still used to helping queens during their kitting because she prohibited him to do it but today she needed his help and he actually didn't have much experience which caused him to stare at the wet bundle in a daze. Cloudberry had to do it herself.

Why do I have an imbecile as an apprentice? He could imagine is what

his mentor thought.

Cloudberry lapped as fast and as gentle as she could at the sack that covered her patient till it eventually ripped. A loud gasping sound can be heard as the kit had taken its first breath, it inhaled deeply desperately because the sack hadn't been taken off immediately.

"A healthy tom." The sandy-brown kit's paws were churning, the most adorable mew escaped from his lips. His mother grasped him by the scruff and carried him to her. The kit immediately started suckling for milk, his paws kneading her belly.

The queen had flashed a quick smile till she groaned once more and her eyes widened in pain "Another one's coming."

This time, it seemed a bit easier to do the procedure. A light gray kit mewled and was taken by the scruff to the mother's belly, a tortoiseshell she-kit followed. By the entrance, a gray tabby with green eyes entered, he looked exactly like the second kit.

"First two are toms and the last is a she-cat, congratulations Windflight." Cloudberry purred and gestured him to come over, but he just sat by the entrance.

"How do you feel Rainfur? Do you need anything?" he meowed from afar.

The she-cat wanted him to take a closer look at his kits, but it seems that was not a choice "I'm pretty thirsty, can you get soaked moss?"

"Grab water by the stream outside camp, it's more fresh there." The tom nodded before swiftly leaving the area, eager to get out. Once he left Rainfur's attention was back to her little kits.

"They're beautiful," the queen looked at her kits with teary eyes. A groan came from Goosefeather as he licked the kits' pelt to keep them warm, seeing that Rainfur didn't do anything afterwards and thought crying was what she's supposed to do.

But once his tongue reached towards one of the kits' head, a fiery blazing feeling seared throughout his body as visions of the kit's future flashed in his mind like a flashback but in vice versa.

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A sandy-brown cat crouched low within the undergrowth, he waggled his haunches before taking off, he ran to the edge of the high ledge of the forest floor and leaped high with grace, the thrush that was alarmed flew as fast as it could but before it can reach a branch his jaws snapped shut on its wing, dragging it down with him.

"Well done," A warrior congratulated him.

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"StarClan honors your loyalty and passion as we welcome you as a warrior of ThunderClan."

The cats of ThunderClan cheers his name, his bright green eyes gleamed with pride and happiness.

"I promise to serve ThunderClan and every clan member in need." he mumbled to himself, determination is evident.

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The frost melted, every green thing in the forest slowly came back to life.

A skinny, rib showing white furred warrior along with others that had the same body shape carried scrawny little animals in their mouths. They gave the prey to the starving warriors since the queens and the elders were already fed.

"Featherwhisker!"

The skinny medicine cat rushed towards the hunting patrol who all had runny noses and told them to eat the herbs provided.

"Have you fed everyone?" He asked a golden furred tom with a sort of mane.

"We have a few more especia-"

"Dear StarClan help!"

The white furred warrior staggered back, dropping the dead thrush by accident. The bird's wing spread out as its feather tip brushed against a cold nose.

A sandy-brown tom lay on the grass, not moving.

His breathing was shallow, little white clouds appear when he puffs softly. The gleam in his once bright green eyes slowly faded as it started to dull, his irises large and rolling to the back of his head.

It was too late.

A blue furred skinny she-cat stared at him with shock and disbelief, not accepting the fact that it was his 'time'. The others around the camp looked at him with sadness while a tortoiseshell she-cat was the one who wailed, running to nuzzle herself on the crook of his neck, begging him to eat.

But he did not move a muscle, as the warmth of his body was no more because of how cold it is and his eyes closed.

But the smile on his face remained.

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"Goosefeather!"

Once Goosefeather's eyes opened, he realized he was slumped to the

ground, his fur as messy as ever. The queen looked at him with panic and fear, her tail curling around her kits protectively.

He felt sharp teeth bite down on his scruff then tugged. He was dragged quickly backwards as his mentor flung him out of the nursery.

Cloudberry's eyes flashed in panic and anger "I told you to not groom the kits!" She hissed, getting the attention of the now confused nearby cats who were eager to hear the news.

Goosefeather just watched his mentor go back into the nursery and taught the queen how to groom and warm a kit. He can hear their faint voices from inside.

"Look, he's doesn't have a plain pelt. He has a speckled one, just like Goosefeather." Rainfur looked at one of the kits in awe as little sort of darker shades of brown as well as lighter ones scattered around the little one's pelt like tadpoles by the murky water near ShadowClan or Poppy seeds scattered in the den by accident "He might be mistaken as his kin," she joked.

"His pelt does look unusual yet eye catching. This one would be a handsome warrior," Cloudberry commented "What will you name them?"

The queen thought about it for a few heartbeats but then smiled "The tortoiseshell is Dapplekit, the other one is Tawnykit, while his name is Thrushkit."

"His fur *is* the color of one but the speckles on his pelt are rare on that bird." Another queen in the nursery meowed, Rainfur gave the she-cat a warm hearted smile and giggled.

"I remember the day Thrushkit's father started to woo me, he brought me a thrush on that day."

Naming your son after the prey your mate who seems to be not around now? How romantic.

The medicine cat gave her some space as they left the nursery. Cloudberry was the one who informed everyone who was waiting

outside about the news. Purrs and praises were shared as the clan celebrated the new life and member in addition to this clan.

But Goosefeather went straight back into his den, his tail dragging on the short grass as if it was a burden.

Another life given to the clan, but another death engraved in my mind.

Sometimes, the bluish gray tom hated his power. Starclan had gifted him the power to talk to dead cats, receive prophecies and to see the future, but what's the difference with other medicine cats?

Only during halfmoon at the Moonstone would medicine cats can be able to walk in StarClan and talk to the dead. But Goosefeather can see them even if it wasn't halfmoon, and he does not need to go to the moonstone for that.

Glancing outside, he can see other cats who peered inside the nursery, they had little stars in their eyes and stardust on their pelt. No living cat in ThunderClan sees them now, except for him. Sandy colored cats as well as various shades of brown and gray crowded around the queen who just kitted, they were her kin as well as the kit's.

One of those cats sees him, then padded to his den. This one was a tom, he was the shade of brown, with eyes of dark green.

"So?" The brown tom tilted his head, hoping for an answer.

"*Starvation.*"

The tom sat beside him, sighing "That's one of the worse ways to die, but it shows that he'll be a loyal one."

Goosefeather just grunted, not wanting to talk further about the kit's fate. Seeing a cat's future till death is what was also his power. This one is the worst among the two.

He had seen a lot, cats that haven't even been born, prophecies thrown onto him that won't be even told this generation, and leaders that may lead to a path of greatness or destruction. He had seen his first sunrise when he was a kit, but he had also seen the

last sunset of the clans that will no longer be around in the future.

What makes him hate this, is that he can do nothing to stop what will happen.

Starclan gave me this power, but they do not want me to use it..

He looked at the nursery from afar. The sandy-brown and light gray kits were already sleeping at their mother's belly, the other StarClan cats left or were going to the outside of the camp, maybe to take a stroll on the path that they used to walk on. He remembered the bright green eyes of the tom in a vision from earlier, and also the way they slowly dulled when his death came to show its presence.

"Welcome to ThunderClan, *Thrushpelt.*."

O n e

It Kept Raining For Days.

At first it was fine because every cat was in the dens, safe from the wet, icy cold water that poured from the sky. But there was a problem that occured before the rain even started.

There was no food.

If the noise of the rain was muted, you can hear loud growls from the stomachs of everyone. ThunderClan Cats hated getting wet but forced themselves to hunt in this weather beacause even they were hungry.

Among all of those dens, one of them was called the nursery. Inside was a queen with a lot of kits, huddled together to keep warm. Tawnykit, Dapplekit & Thrushkit were the kits of Rainfur, who looked to be very ill today. Right next to next were Specklekit & Whitekit, their mother had just passed away this moon.

The gray she cat warmed the kits from time to time by licking their pelts "How are you coping little ones?"

"I'm cold, but okay mother." Whitekit mewed. Ever since their real mother died Rainfur did the best she can for the queen's two kits to feel like they still have a family, she loved them like they were her own.

"I feel cold too.." Specklekit mumbled, cuddling next to Tawnykit's body.

"I'm hungry," Dapplekit wailed.

It broke the queen's heart to see the kits look small and bony. She stood up and pawed at the loose, damp soil on the den.

"What are you looking for mother?" Tawnykit asked.

"I'm going to look for something..aha!" Rainfur had unearthed light grayish pink things that wriggled in the dirt. It looked like the things that she had offered Cloudberry to eat.

With a claw, she hooked the squirming thing and got two each for the five kits, meaning that there were ten pink things in total.

"Is these what you and Cloudberry ate?"

"Eew, what are they?" Dapplekit scrunched up her nose in disgust.

Rainfur lightly cuffed her on the ear "These *things* are called *worms*. And this is what you'll be eating."

Thrushkit looked at the worms, they seemed to have dirt covered on them, they also kept wriggling. Tawnykit did not waste time and gobbled his down. Whitekit hesitated but ate hers as well.

Dapplekit still did not eat hers. Their mother sighed as she trailed her tail tip on the kit's spine "Sweetie, you know how the warriors can't hunt anything much and that if they do, it turns to crow food. Would you want to eat something that would hurt your belly or eat this that would *actually* fill it?"

The tortoiseshell kit's belly growled, she eyed the pink worms with hunger. She swallowed one of them, then decided to eat the other.

"Feel better?" She nodded at her mother, licking her lips.

Thrushpaw looked at Rainfur, she looked bony and may get easily sick. Her ribs showed and her belly shrunk back.

Pineheart said WindClan cats are slender and skinny, but it doesn't look good for us.

He hooked his little claw on one of his worms and placed it in front of her paws "Mother, can you eat this one?"

She looked at him dearly, her eyes glistening. *Is she about to cry?* "No, you need to eat sweetie."

"But how about you?"

She gave him a reassuring smile "I already ate, I'm still full."

Thrushkit ate one of the worms, it felt slimy and yucky when he swallowed it, but a warm feeling came to his belly, happy that it had been filled with what little he had after being starved for a long time. He did not take the other though, hoping she would change her mind about eating.

All of the kits huddled together at the most dry corner of the den. The rain had no longer fell hard, but still poured down nevertheless.

Thrushkit yawned as his eyes started to flutter shut, their mother became their second wall as she blocked the raindrops that splashed in. But there was one thing that the little kit had noticed. In the middle of the den, right near the entrance of the nursery, was a pink worm trying to bury itself beneath the dirt again.

Rainfur did not eat..

↠ O n e [p a r t T w o] ↞

"Ouch! That's My Tail."

"Sorry.."

"How much longer mother?"

"Be patient my little ones."

Thrushkit sat beside his mother as she licked Dapplekit's fur. Tawnykit was already groomed and he avoided making his fur dirty, so that their mother won't clean him again.

The rain has stopped for a while, so they were spending as much time as they can outside the nursery, to avoid getting boredom sickness. Its not an actual illness but previous queens told their mother that if a kit is kept inside too long he/she would become destructive. Thrushkit's two siblings already damaged the den's walls because of scratching it a lot so what the she-cats said were true.

Whitekit & Specklekit were allowed to play with Sunpaw for today, since the other kits would be doing something "important" according to their mother.

"Please tell me what's so important about being clean?" Dapplekit meowed, the gentle queen finsished as she gave a silent thanks to StarClan that the grooming was over. She however started playing with Tawnykit and their mother was tired to even try to re-clean them.

"You'll be meeting your father today." Rainfur pulled Thrushkit towards her with a paw. She started licking parts of his face as the sandy brown kit gladly let her and raised his head when she licked his under chin and neck. "Also, cleaning yourselves is important because he is a respected warrior, surely being his kits you want to look presentable for not only him, but to your future denmates.

Seems like Thrushkit is the only one who listens."

Tawnykit scoffed "He doesen't count, Thrushkit likes being cleaned like a mewling kit."

Thrushkit did not react but he did reply "At least I'm cleaner than you."

"Nuh-uh, I'll clean myself better than you!"

"No you're not! I'm gonna be cleaner than all of you."

The two sibling started licking themselves clean, the dirt on their pelts being removed and retaining that fluffy kit fur. Rainfur was delighted that they won't look dirty when their father arrives.

"Thank you," she whispered to Thrushkit. Thrushpelt smiled as he let his mother clean him a bit more.

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The Sun Was About to go Down..

Their father was still not in sight.

The family has been sitting in their same spot, near the fern tunnel. Rainfur did not allow them to walk around and only let them stand up in place to avoid the numb butt. Thrushkit cannot feel his hind legs and his tail turned stiff in pain.

A few patrols already had come and go, none had the warrior they were waiting for. He looked at his mother, who had slowly also seemed to lose hope.

"You know what?" Rainfur meowed, smiling at her kits "How about

we take a nap for a while at the nursery, maybe he's busy."

Or maybe he forgot..

They were about to enter the nursery til there was the usual rustling of the fern tunnel. Dapplekit angled her ears towards that direction and a smile lit up her face.

"Wait," she mewed "I hear another patrol coming!"

She ran off back to the entrance/exit of the tunnel, several cats appeared, talking and making jokes as they entered. Most were brown and gray tabbies, but none had the pale green eyes that their mother described.

At the back of the patrol, a large gray tabby with slender legs walked in. His head was held high as his long thin tail with a thick tuft at the end caressed the grass.

"See?" Rainfur purred at her kits "He was just busy."

Their mother padded ahead while the two brothers just tagged along. "She said he'd be with a hunting patrol..but that's the border patrol from sunhigh." Tawnykit whispered.

"Maybe he wanted to look presentable and cleaned himself by the river." Thrushkit reasoned.

The light gray kit huffed "He can't just leave his patrol, but I guess so."

They watched the tom pass by Dapplekit, who he ignored despite her mews of delight. He looked like he was deep in thought. He had long legs like the cats of WindClan in the senior warriors' stories, he had reached across the clearing in a matter of a few pawsteps.

"Windflight..Windflight!" The tom snapped out of his thoughts as he looked around, till he had found the one calling him.

Rainfur smiled "Come take a look at your kits."

Their mother made them sit side by side, cleaning themselves the

last minute. When Thrushkit raised his head, he saw how his father towered over them easily, even their mother.

He did not look at them though.

Rainfur purred "Don't they look lovely?"

Dapplekit smiled at their mother's words as she purred softly, making her look cute. She shook her pelt to try and make him notice her beautiful dappled coat.

The tom however, just slowly nodded "They're a great addition to the clan."

You still didn't look at us though..

Their mother did not notice though "One of them looks almost like you too." Thrushkit's brother puffed his fluffy kit chest with pride.

"Yeah, Dapplekit right?"

Tawnykit smile faltered, dissapointed at the wrong answer.

Dapplekit did not notice and thought that he just acknowledged her brother then asked her name "Yep, that's me! I have a beautiful dappled coat right father?"

Windflight stiffened, seeing his mistake. He finally looked down to see who looked like him. He smiled at Tawnykit..*why does it seemed forced?*

"What's both your names?" He asked.

Dapplekit was the one to answer that. "Oh, this one is Tawnykit, and the other is Thrushkit. Mother said that you first shared a thrush with her right? I like his name so he's one of my favorites..no you're my favorite too Tawnykit. Wow you look so tall, you are a warrior right? I'm gonna be a warrior too. Did you know that ye-.."

Thrushkit did not focus on what his sister kept rambling about. He felt uneasy at their situation, especially since Windflight seemed like he didn't want to be here at the moment. Tawnykit was

frowning, he didn't like being here as well.

"Windflight, are you coming?"

A faint voice of a cat came from the far side of camp, but the way his father's pointy ears angled at that direction and the fast turning of his head seemed like it was loud from his perspective.

Father does have sharp hearing.

"I'll be there in a moment."

Windflight smiled shyly at Rainfur "I'm sorry but I gotta go, we'll be talking about where to hunt tomorrow.."

"Oh, okay.." The two kits can see the dissapointment in her eyes, but their sister was still smiling.

"Will you visit us again?" Dapplekit stopped him from going by gently pawing at his long tail.

Windflight looked uncomfortable, but managed to purr "I will, promise..now please let go of my tail."

Once she raised her paw, he sprinted away to the warrior's den. Specklekit and Whitekit padded towards them with smiles.

"Sunpaw taught us how to do a hunting crouch today!" Whitekit squealed as she sat on one side of Dapplekit.

"He even taught us easy battle tecniques! How was your day Dapplekit? How was the meeting with your father?" Specklekit meowed, sitting on her other side.

"He's so cool! I bet he is an important warrior, he even plans where to hunt tomorrow. I can't wait to eat something good soon." Dapplekit's eyes gleamed as she said those words with happiness. Rainfur listened to the three as they headed back to the nursery, softly purring in delight.

Tawnykit and Thrushkit as always, were at the back of the group. They had a different impression however.

"I can't believe that he thought I was Dapplekit!" Tawnykit growled lowly, feeling upset "And to think that he's the one who named me because I almost look like him."

Thrushkit touched his brother's shoulder with his tail "That's okay, it seemed that he's just busy so he got absent minded.."

"If he was absent mind thing..ish then why did he ask our names?" The light gray kit kicked a little pebble away "If you ask me, he seems like he doesn't want to even talk to us or even want to know anything about us."

The rain had started to pour again as they scampered back into their den. The sandy brown kit peeked outside, the view of the inside warrior's den was clear. Windflight was laughing with a group of warriors, looking at ease compared to their encounter earlier.

His pale green eyes gleamed as a warrior spoke, maybe telling a tale. The way his father looked comfortable in his nest made the little kit smile.

He imagined himself with his littermates, becoming apprentices. The day where they'd all hunt for prey, drinking water by the river at sunningrocks because they were exhausted. Their mother would be already there, cleaning herself as she doesen't notice their father creep closer and pounce on her, the two rolling as they purr. They can have fun, they would be happy.

They would be a family.

Thrushkit glanced at his mother, who gathered the kits around her, telling them to sleep already in a gentle tone. A happy smile on her face as she purred. Tawnykit's words echoed in his ears. He shook his head.

For once, I hope what you say Tawnykit won't be true..

↠ T w o ↞

The Rain Had Finally Stopped.

Now that it was okay to come out, warriors are trying their best to find any prey on every hunting grounds, some even see if the training grounds have the usual mice.

The kits were allowed to get out of the nursery to get some fresh air. Dapplekit and the others were excited and ran out before their mother could even finish her sentence. They ran straight to the water puddles created by the rain, splashing themselves and then playing a game where RiverClan was fighting ThunderClan.

"If they get sick after playing in water I swear.." Rainfur mumbled under her breath, going back into the nursery.

"Oh, what are you still doing here?"

At the corner of the nursery, she spotted the sandy brown colored kit who stayed alone. He just looked at his mother.

"I don't want to play."

His mother scoffed "I've never seen a kit like you son." she sat down beside him "Is there a problem? You can tell me everything you know."

Thrushkit shuffled his paws, thinking about how he would say it straight.

Just say it!

"Are you full?"

That's not the exact words for the statement but close enough.

His mother flicked her ear "Of course I am, why do you think I'm not?"

"Dapplekit ate the worm I left you, and every night Cloudberry is giving you something."

Her tail twitched and she did not meet her son's gaze. *Is she hiding something?* "I told you, I'm *fine."* She meowed "My priority is for you and the others to eat first, that's why you don't see me eat because I'm last, Cloudberry was giving me something to keep me full."

Was it a herb? I don't smell prey in her breath "Can we eat the prey that you eat?"

Panic flashed in her eyes. "No! Uh..its only for big cats."

"Oh, okay."

They sat there in silence, watching the kits outside making themselves dirty. They bumped into a group of warriors that growled in annoyance, making them leave in a scurry.

"Mother, when can father visit us again?"

Thrushkit barely saw Windflight come into the nursery to bring a treat for them or say hi. Ever since they were born he did not show his face into this den except for that one time she called for him. In stories his mother says how sweet and concerned he was. But he never sees that side of him.

If he were concerned, he must be worried about how mother looks.

He heard his mother sigh "Well, Windflight is really busy. He is one of the warriors who are hunting for as long as they can, finding food for us to eat." she shook her head as if she were clearing her thoughts then look at him with a happy expression "By the way, did you know that the name I gave you is special to me?"

Thrushkit tipped his head sideways "Why is that?"

"Well, the prey that Windflight first gave me before was a thrush. You looked similar to it and I wanted to name you for one of the things that had a meaningful role in my life so yeah." She purred, a deja vú look and a twinkle in her eye.

She told her son about how Windflight had used to woo her using mushy words and the tastiest morsels he caught. Thrushkit felt proud of his father being the sweetest mate, he thought he must have underestimated him because he did not visit them again. But the stories she told him about their midnight walks and the fun games they used to play was enough to remove the doubt in his mind.

"What happened next?" Whitekit asked. The mother and son were surprised that the kits had been actually listening from the entrance of the nursery. She called them to come close and to clean themselves while she told the story.

"He was acting shy and all, a tasty thrush was always what he brought me, knowing that it was one of my favorite prey besides the rare rabbit." Specklekit and Tawnykit asked why rabbits "Well, Windflight liked them. He made me taste one, it was actually good."

"What did he say to make you like him? I wanna know!" Dapplekit squealed in delight, loving the romantic story.

"Well, he was like this," Rainfur stood up, lowered her head and tail, her ears were flattened, her pupils became big, looking so cute "Then he was like, 'Uh..you seem hungry, not that I'm saying that you're greedy and fat..wait! That's wrong uh..what I mean is..would you like to eat me- wait I mean me eat the thrush uh.' He was blabbering and acting like a bunny trying to say hi to a fox in a tunnel." she giggled, making the kits happy and giggle as well.

"What did you say?" Thrushkit pricked his ears towards her direction.

She had a blissfully happy look and sighed so long he imagined her flattening into a tree bark because of how much air she released "Well, I was giggling a lot. I was also shy at that time, but I knew what he was saying. I said I'd love to share the thrush with him, and then the things I told you earlier happened then *boom!* All of you arrived." She smiled warmly as she licked the top of their heads one by one.

Arrive? Where did we come from? Thrushkit was as confused as a

blind mouse in a noisy forest as his mother licked the top of his head.

"Alright that's enough story time, I'm pretty sure you are all tired."

"We are not..tired," Dapplekit yawned, snuggling by her mother's warm belly.

"Thrushkit, can you go to the medicine den to tell Cloudberry if she can give me what she told me yesterday?" Rainfur meowed "It's okay though if you don't want to."

"No its okay," he replied, stretching his legs amd arching his back. "I didn't want to play, but I do want to walk a bit, my legs are numbing."

"Okay, hurry up because it might rain again."

Thrushkit nodded and bolted straight out the nursery. The camp seemed to be a deserted place, especially with the appearance of the current surroundings. The sky was dim, with dark clouds that seem that they would be releasing a million droplets of water soon. He looked at the warrior's den to see empty nests near its entrance, dark silhouettes of bodies can be seen at the dark shadowed back of it. He continued to the medicine clearing and into the den.

"Cloudberry?" There were no signs of cats anywhere, the familiar pelt of a white she cat wasn't there.

Boom.

Thunder had made its presence heard, meaning that this rainshower would be a harsh one. He was about to run back to the nursery till a cat passed the den, an aromatic scent lingered in the air.

Prey.

Peeking his head a little bit to see who was that, he sees it was a light gray tom cat with pale green eyes. He looked like an older version of Tawnykit, but he remembered that Rainfur used to say that he had also looked similar to this cat.

Windflight .

The addicting scent that dangled in his jaws was a little squirrel. It looked not as fat and as juicy as the ones during Greenleaf, but looked like it had a sufficient amount of fat and meat to satisfy a hunger of a full grown cat or maybe two kits.

Is he's taking it to mother?

The answer was a no.

Instead of going straight for the nursery on the other side of the camp he was going towards the warrior's den, with the prey. No other warrior was around or awake, but his father still cautiously looked side to side before dropping his prey. *Why is he so alert and anxious? Last time Doestar reassured us that ShadowClan can't attack us.* He pricked his ears forward to hear anything he has to say.

"Alright, you can do this." *Do what?*

He made calling 'psst' noises at the entrance the den, a few heartbeats later a cat came out.

Thrushkit did not who it was, he only knew it was a *she-cat.*

With fur as red & eyes as amber as a fox's, she would have looked threatening from afar or when ambushed. She had a bushy tail, one he did not have nor his littermates. Her fur was thick and long, suiting the red color, making her look beautiful.

"Windflight, what are you doing here?" The she cat tipped her head at him "Aren't you supposed to be hunting?"

"I am," he meowed "I caught this one and asked Pineheart if you could have it, since you are the one who did not eat any prey for almost a few sunrises."

He pushed the squirrel in front of her paws, it was comepletely soaked from head till bushy tail, must have drowned. Since it got wet its scent was stronger, even from afar he can see the red fox cat drool a bit. And be also noticed that even himself was drooling, his stomach growled, wanting to be filled with something tasty.

The thought of this made him think how loud must his mother's stomach growled. He hadn't seen her eat, and yesterday he was awoken by a loud sound, mistaking it for an aggressive ShadowClan cat or badger.

Why give that to her? It could feed everyone in the nursery!

Windflight shuffled his paws on the ground, sheathing & unsheathing his claws "So..yeah, Uh..I hope you eat me- wait! I mean m- you eat that.." He looked embarassed by his babbling an he walked away in the slowest and most annoying way possible. It was like he was acting!

Thrushkit froze in place.

*What if he **is** acting?*

He prayed to StarClan that what happens next is *not* what he expects.

"Windflight wait!"

The she cat padded next to him "I know you haven't also eaten in days. It would make me happy if you..share the squirrel with me?" she purred.

The weak, non warrior look switched into a grateful, happy one in less than a heartbeat. It left as fast as it came! "Sure, it would make me happy too!" Windflight purred back.

They took the squirrel by one of the corners of the camp. Thrushkit hid his head back when he saw Windflight look around, he peeked out again only to see his father's body blocking the squirrel and just looked like he was having a talk with the she cat, nothing looked suspicious.

But it made the kit feel bad because in the back of his mind something clawed and yelled at him because it *was* suspicious.

"What are you doing here?!"

Thrushkit leaped half a tail length in the air, his back arching and

his whole furry pelt fluffed only to see a messy furred gray speckled tom with pale blue eyes.

This must be Goosefeather , but why did mother not let him check up on us?

From the perspective of the kit, he looked just..normal. He had messy tangled fur, some of his whiskers are not straight and looked crooked. His pale blue eyes (he never realized that that color of eyes was actually a thing.) seemed to glow in the shadows of the den, his irises were in slits, they kept moving side to side though, as if he were looking at a lot of non existent cats, even his ears kept angling in different directions. But then he too had noticed the light gray tom and the red she cat outside, he then stared back at the kit. *Is that pity in his eyes?*

"Oh..uh- Rainfur told me to get Cloudberry, she wants something she told her about."

Goosefeather went deeper into the den, coming out with something brown in his mouth "Can you carry all of this back?"

The brown thing looked hard and rough. The scent of a tree stuck on it, must have actually came from that. He piled them as he managed to bite down on all of them, if they were invisible he'd be mistaken for either yawning or yowling beacuse of how open his mouth was.

"Hank hou" Thrushkit regretted not thanking him before actually carrying the thing, he sounded weird. So he bowed his head in gratitude and was going to sprint out to leave.

"Wait," he felt a large paw pin down his tail tip, making him get pulled back because of how hard he surged forward. He landed with an 'oof' butt first to the ground, dropping the things in his mouth.

Why'd he do that? It hurts!!

He turned his head to look at the medicine cat apprentice, but his ears drooped on each side, fear flashing in his bluish gray youth eyes, irises large.

It sucks that I'm mad but can't look at others with that expression..

"What you saw just now with Windflight and *her*..make sure no warrior knows this, even Rainfur." Goosefeather looked at him with such seriousness that his eyes glowed bright, his tail was twitching so fast and his lip trembled, showing a yellowish fang every now and then. He looked like he was going to kill him so he didn't question why.

"Okay." *Goosefeather does look killer crazy when he's serious, how much more when he's mad? I'm no longer gonna go with Dapplekit to put fire ants in his nest.*

And just like that, Goosefeather looked less intimidating as he smiled, his crazy pale blue eyes looking normal once again. The fur seemed to be less scary, even though it was actually messy in the first place. He helped Thrushkit gater the scattered brown things and went to his nest, slumping down on his back as he rubbed his shoulders on the moss.

If he's happy, he looks funny and nice. How can a medicine cat apprentice be both scary yet funny?

Thrushkit sped his way back to the nursery, not looking at his father's direction. Rainfur was still awake when he had entered, she was grooming the sleeping kits.

"You've taken a while," she stated. He put the brown stuff next to his mother and spat the little hard things that came from it and resided in his mouth.

"Goosefeather talked to me."

His mother's pelt bristled in fear "What did he say? Did he do something to you?!"

Huh?

"He's the one who gave me that, Cloudberry wasn't around."

She sighed in relief, and used her paws to get him over to where she is. He purred when she started grooming him. Unlike his

littermates, he enjoyed the feeling of being cleaned by his mother, beacuse he knows she does it because she cares for him.

"Aren't you going to groan or stop me?" She asked in between licks.

Thrushkit raised his head high so she can lick his neck easily "Should I? I like it when you clean me, you do it because you love me."

Rainfur chuckled, stopping her mid-lick to touch his nose with hers "You really are a different kit from your siblings and from any kit I once knew. Unlike your tough brother and sisters who think they're warriors, you actually have a mind of a warrior but a heart of a kit, wanting to show love and also be loved back." the little kit let out an adorable mew as he purred, his mother purred back.

"Is that bad?" He yawned, tired as his eyelids started fluttering once again.

"No, not at all.." he heard the faint voice that was music to his ears, he felt her pull him to her chest, the warmth made him comfortable as she licked his cheek.

*"Wanting to show love and be loved back is not bad, but not everyone that **can** be loved will give it back in the way you want it to be, because sometimes it **is** not meant to be. One day you'll meet a cat who'd be your everything, make sure you show her that, be with her in both the good and the bad, make her know that she's never alone. If she loves you back then never let her go. But if she loves someone else, you must learn how to let her go. Do not be mad, do not be sad, only be glad for her, if you learn how to do that, then you will know that you truly know how to love, and that's when you will be happy.."*

Even if his eyes were closed, he can feel the happines and love that poured out into those words. The smile on his mother's face appeared in his mind without even opening his eyes to look.

He smiled too.

↠ T h r e e ↞

It Will Soon Be Over.

The rainy days are over. The sky started to bring back its blue color, the clouds passing by to maybe rain on another part of the forest far from ThunderClan. The grassy ground was still damp though, a strong scent of the earth filled the camp, Thrushkit seemed fond of the smell though.

After what the sandy brown kit had seen almost a moon or so ago, he can't look at his father the same again. At first he thought that Windflight was just busy or that he just did not want to be teased for being soft, but seeing how he treated the she-cat the exact way his mother told him he treated her, was a serious thing to discuss.

Now, Rainfur was with Cloudberry in the medicine cat den talking about something. All the kits were in a circle within the nursery, hoping to get privacy.

"Let me get this straight," Specklekit made the others shut up, wanting a clarification "You saw Windflight give *her* a squirrel, a piece of prey that was ***not*** given to *us.* And he acted like the cat he used to be with Rainfur?"

"Yeah, sorry for not telling you guys earlier," Thrushkit meowed "Me and Tawnykit wanted to make sure I wasn't imagining."

When Goosefeather warned him not to tell anyone, he kept his promise. *He said not to tell the warriors and my mother, he did not say I can't tell kits though..*

Dapplekit was looking at them in disbelief "What if you were, don't you see? The way mother told us about father was in the sweetest way, he seemed to never hurt her, and now you're telling us that you saw him with a she-cat, her name is Poppydawn by the way, and were sharing a squirrel? They would be breaking the code!"

Whitekit sided with her "I'm on Dapplekit's side. You don't have enough evidence to prove him guilty, I'm sorry but..I just don't believe you."

It was understandable that they were in doubt, even he was too at first..but when he saw Poppydawn looking better and stronger the day after that happened, it means that she ate.

"Well, me and Specklekit will spy on..Windflight," Tawnykit mewed, not waiting for Specklekit to agree "Thrushkit will watch Poppydawn."

"That's the plan."

Tawnykit and Specklekit left first, acting like they will be hiding. Thrushkit waited for them to go far, and he'd casually blend in too. He looked at the bummed tortoiseshell and a supportive white she cat.

Dapplekit sighed "I won't tell anyone about what you told us, I'll give you guys till sundown to find more clues and evidence. I'm here for backup."

"Same here," Whitekit smiled.

Thankful that he didn't have to give her a begging talk on keeping her mouth shut, he padded out of the nursery, making sure he finds Poppydawn.

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Their 'Secret' Mission Took a While.

They were already playing with some sticks and damp old moss ball

they found in the clearing, Dapplekit and Whitekit were doing something else, but from time to time they would look at the three.

"What did you find out?" Specklekit pushed the ball in Thrushkit's direction.

He sighed "Pineheart said that every warrior is out, trying to get any prey who's out looking for food too."

Their mother hasn't came back from the medicine cat den thankfully, which means they still have time.

The sun took its time too, it slowly left the highest peak of the sky, slowly sinking into the side, the sky having shades of pinkish red and orange, with the faint stars appearing now. Soon, everyone has to go back into their nests, and yet they haven't even started to do their plan.

"How about we call it a day?" Thrushkit arched his back and stretched his numbing legs "Maybe Dapplekit was right..we're being too jumpy to conclusions, maybe he was just being friendly."

He waited for his littermates to nod, but he has seen something else. Tawnykit was staring at him, a neautral expression transitioning into an angry one.

"Don't fool yourself on the one fooling around," he growled, an action that he didn't ever do until now "Ever since you learned to talk and observe like us you tell me how it's weird that Windflight doesn't visit us at all, even I didn't notice my suspicions too until now. And this time you saw him doing something against mother *and* the code and this is the time you want to back off?!" His little kit tail was lashing, ears flattened. Thrushkit noticed that his brother's eye color has been changing bit by bit. Splashes of amber mixed with kit youth bluush gray.

Amber eyes, the color that can make his eyes intimidating as well as his stubborness in finding the truth..he would make a great warrior, if not, maybe even leader some day.

That made him shudder, in a good way.

"What do you want us to do?" He replied, crouching low with ears down, a submissive pose, not wanting to fight about this and let him take control, even Specklekit looked surprise and scared at his outburst.

Tawnykit's eyes widened.

"Wait..I'm sorry. Please don't do that," he mewed softly, nudging the two kits to sit "I'm just..I just want to find out the truth so badly."

Thrushkit smiled sadly "I do so too, I just wanted to give up.."

"I can't be mad at you for that," Specklekit meowed in sympathy "The fact that you were the only one who saw it puts the pressure of questions and doubts on yourself. Just learn to calm down, we'll figure this out together." she nuzzled herself affectionately on Thrushkit's neck, making him calm.

She would be a great ally in fighting, giving the group strength and determination to fight. She can also be a very wise queen to her kits someday..

They calmed each other, the sudden tension about the problem going away like the dark clouds in the sky. Noise came from the entrance, the fern tunnel suddenly shaking.

"Wait- they're coming!"

Tawnykit and Specklekit went to their positions, by the warrior's den, while Thrushkit just had to act natural at the dark outside corner of a den that made him hide in the dark shadow. He saw a crowd of cats passing by, not noticing him hiding in the dark.

This must be why Shadowclan is known to be very good at fighting, they can have the element of surprise.

He saw Windflight pass with a scrawny vole, right beside him a cat seemed to be *very close* that their pelts were brushing. The cat had the color similar to a fox's.

Poppydawn.

They placed their prey on the little pile, a smile on their faces.

"You go to the medicine den to ask for a herb to heal your injuries," Windflight meowed.

Wow, how concerned.

"Oh come on Wind, I'm fine. I just fell."

"It's my fault, I should have catched you properly. But you fell so hard..on me at least."

His stomach churned as his claws dug deep on the soil, not liking the giggles and the purrs that followed. He left his hiding spot to take a peek at the two and why no one hears their conversation when it was loud for him.

Turns out, it was because they were a tail length and a half away from him. His heart beat fast when his father's eyes looked in his direction, he hid his head back behind.

Did he see me?

Peeking his head once more, Windflight was touching her nose with his as he purred "I'm going back to the den to clean the bed, make Cloudberry check your wounds..now." He watched at the retreating figure of his father, and a moony she-cat who sighed weirdly.

Mother sighs like that when she tells us about father..

She padded towards the medicine clearing and entered the medicine cat den, far from the apprentice den where he was at. He looked for the old moss ball he and Specklekit were playing with, when he did, he started playing with it, pushing it to the medicine clearing trying to get it to the other side.

At the corner of his eye he can see the two, looking at him with confusion.

What are you doing? Tawnykit mouthed.

He pointed to the medicine den with his tail, they looked and saw a

familiar bushy tail peeking out the entrance.

With a good luck mouthed from his littermates, he reached the den and saw that there were only three she-cats in there and no one else. Cloudberry and Rainfur were happily chatting till they were interrupted by a meow from the fox furred she-cat.

"Hi there Poppydawn, what do you need?" Cloudberry meowed.

She raised her front paw "I accidentally chased a squirrel up in the trees, Something happened to my claw and lost my grip on the tree."

The white she-cat inspected it and laughed "Oh there's nothing wrong with your claws, the force of your fall just made you loose grip that's all. Your hunting buddy for today must be overreacting."

"I know right? He made me come here despite saying that I was okay."

The medicine cat chuckled as she rummaged through her little hollows for herbs "Ooh, a possible mate is what I hear? Seems that this season might have a positive outcome..maybe even more kits!"

Those words made Thrushkit want to vomit.

"That's pleasant to hear, I was so bored with no one to talk to all the time in the nursery while the kits play." Rainfur joined in, maybe feeling left out. But the sandy brown kit taken her comment in offense.

Hey!

"Oh, except for Thrushkit."

Okay.

"Isn't Thrushkit the brown with little specks one?" Poppydawn laughed awkwardly "Sorry, I haven't seen them a lot."

"Yeah, he's a real sweetheart. I've never met a thoughtful and sweet cat like my kit, he's very different from his littermates. He always

makes me happy,he is exactly just like his father when it comes to me."

He felt his chest tighten at the compliment.

I'll never be that cat you speak of who hurts you without yourself knowing.

Cloudberry was done chewing something and asked for Poppydawn to raise her paw again "Okay, since your question mark possible future 'mate' is concerned, I'll add something to your claws to make sure they aren't wrenched."

"Oh, its a waste of he-"

"No its fine," she reassured her "The herb I gave you is close to being thrown out already, better to use it while it has the effectivity that remains." Green chunky stuff is smeared on both her paws.

"Thanks Cloudberry." The red furred warrior left the medicine den, barely even acknowledging Rainfur who was just silent. Its seems that they aren't in an argument or something, they just were neutral to each other.

Thrushkit was about to follow Poppydawn but slipped on the soggy moss he used. He fell face first to the ground, making noise.

"Thrushkit, what are you doing here among all places?" Cloudberry looked at him outside the den, his mother's eyes were also on him.

Oops..

"Found you!" A she-cat squeaked. He sat on his paws and saw Dapplekit looking very happy as she circled around him "You suck at hiding Thrushkit."

"You guys were playing?" Rainfur asked.

"Yup. I'm looking for the others, we are playing 'find the ShadowClan warrior'. Thrushkit is not good at being a ShadowClan cat though, I found him first."

Their mother got up from the nest, stretching her muscles "I guess its time for me to take these little ones back in the nursery to nap, thanks for the tree bark." she ushered them back to the direction of their den, despite their groans.

Clouberry waved her tail goodbye "You're welcome."

Tawnykit, Specklekit and Whitekit approached them "Where are you going?" Whitekit asked.

Their mother gestured to the den "Time for sleep. Come on."

She pushed the three she-kits into the nursery, not noticing the two toms falling behind.

"What did you find out?" Tawnykit asked.

"Well, I overheard them. Windflight was overreacting about a simple thing and forced her to go make Cloudberry heal it, she gave her weak herbs which means it was just a simple thing. I'll explain more about what they talked about with the others tomorrow. How about you?"

Tawnykit sighed "We saw Windflight cleaning his bed at the back of the den right? But get this, he pulled another moss bed closer to his and he added on to that one new feathers! I'm pretty sure the warriors said that they were sure that they had the old ones and the new ones are given to us. And here's the worse pa--"

"What are you two still doing out there?"

Rainfur pushed Tawnykit inside while she bit Thrushkit at the scruff and half dragged, half carried him in. He tries to turn his head to look at the warrior's den. Windflight was talking to a peculiar fox furred she-cat.

What?

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He was laying on a moss bed, he and her were..laughing.

Wait..

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She lay down on the moss bed beside him, it was so close that their pelts pressed onto one another. Tawnykit looked at his gaze direction too, ignoring their mother's stuggles on pushing him in while carrying Thrushkit.

WAIT!!

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Poppydawn lay her head down on the bed, Windflight's head lay on her. With no doubt the two brothers knew they were both being too close and that they must be purring. But the feather thing is not what ticked the Thunderclan kits though.

By the side a red bushy furred tail was entwined with a wiry light gray furred one, similar to the cat's son.

↠ F o u r ↞

Its Have Been a Few Sunrises Since that Day.

But to the sandy brown tom it just felt like it was yesterday, just like his ceremony.

Thrushpaw was sunning himself on sunningrocks by the river while he let his past memories keep him entertained. Just a while ago he, Tawnypaw, Whitepaw, Dapplepaw & Specklepaw were made into apprentices. Moonflower was one of the finest mentors he could ever have. Tawnypaw had Stormtail, Whitepaw has Smallear & Specklepaw has Robinwing. But who has the most memorable mentor out of all of theirs was Dapplepaw's. Poppydawn was the one mentoring the tortoiseshell she-cat, much to the other littermates' dismay, only Whitepaw was the one who didn't seem affected by it since she still doesen't believe them.

Specklepaw however believed them, especially since she had peeked her head out the nursery that day and also saw the moss bed 'incident.' It was a shame the other two did not.

Whitepaw was also laying beside him, but she was staring at the river as figures of silver and gray fish swim around, the sight of them look like they're unlimited.

"Do you wonder Thrushpaw why RiverClan are always fat and strong even in leafbare?" the white she-cat asked from beside, forgetting the fact that he was trying to be quiet.

He sighed, seeing that his old littermate will be talkative so why even bother trying to sleep "Maybe because they keep eating?"

"That's the funny thing about RiverClan." Whitepaw leaped off the rocks to be on the riverbank "They only eat fish while we have a lot of choices of food. But their supply is so many, that the fish look like there are a hundred!" she splashed a paw in the water, startling the fish to go to one side, making them crowded, but confirming

that they are many.

"What are you doing?!" a loud voice boomed, startling the two.

From the other side of the river, a large gray tom with a thick pelt stood along with a dappled gray tom. They had large paws, meaning that the apprentices must be aware of how deadly their strength in clawing hard is. Their tails looked strong as well, flicking side to side so swift and so hard that they created a continous small cloud of dust.

The gray one spoke again "What..are..you..doing..to the fish?"

Thrushpaw leaped down from the rock, approaching his littermate whose eyes were widened in fear. The sounds of pawsteps came from behind, several.

"I apologize for the actions of whatver my clanmates have done Hailstar, I'm pretty sure they didn't mean it." Tawnypaw apologized.

"She didn't mean it, she's just always..curious." Specklepaw defended her sister.

Great job Whitepaw, out of all the cats who we can meet..it had to be RiverClan's leader.

Whitepaw bowed her head "I'm very sorry..I was just curious about the fish and wanted to see what they'd do when I put my paw in."

Hailstar stared at her intensely, but then nodded "That's okay I guess, considering now the fish swarmed into our part of the territory."

He watched the dappled gray tom beside him sit on two hind legs while his two front paws were raised in the air for a moment. Then, as quick as a flash of lightning, his claws unsheathed and dipped into the water then back out, but this time with a big silver fish. It wriggled on the ground hoping to get back into the water, but the warrior gave it ghe killing bite. The apprentices were amazed at the skill.

Hailstar then crouched low, bunching up his muscles together.

Several fishes swam in his direction, a small one was even just in the lower front of him! But he did not noticed that.

He waggled his haunches, making Dapplepaw from the side cock her head "Is he doing a ThunderClan crouch? It seems wrong." The gray tom looked at them, winked before diving so quick that there was no splash, when he dived a drop of water flew up, then dropped back down making a pattern like effect of its impact on the calm river.

They waited, but he had taken a long time under the water. Tawnypaw stupidly held his breath, trying to see if he can hold his breath as long as the leader, but gasped for air in just a few heartbeats.

He's the most mature and responsible brother, but at the same time a mouse-brained one.

It took a while till they see a head bobbed up the water, a large fish hang limply in his jaws. The apprentices are in awe, it was like he just walked upwards.

"That looks cool!" Whitepaw bounced up and down in delight at the soggy furred tom's catch. "Is it hard to catch a fish?"

He dropped the wet prey, licking his lips "Not at all, bigger fish are slower." Thruspaw looked at the silhouettes of the fish in the river.

Almost every fish looks big, no wonder RiverClan is well fed.

The other cat with Hailstar meow was so gruff it seemed like a growl "But that does not mean you hunt fish got it?"

Another voice from beside them was the one to reply "Not a problem Shellheart, they're just curious since they've been only made apprentices."

Shellheart grunted "That's good to hear." he picked up his catch and padded off, back to their camp.

Hailstar looked at the apprentices one by one in the eye till it landed on Thrushpaw's green ones. He didn't know why, but the

RiverClan leader smiled.

"I hope to see you all at the next Gathering, and hopefully not in the battlefield." He picked up his fish and left, following the trail of his clanmate.

Their mentors came back from an unsucessful tracking for prey. Despite it not being leafbare the forest was barren, the only prey that the others were lucky to catch were bony and starving, possibly they were also looking for food as well.

Since they were no longer kits, they have to hunt, patrol and do apprentice duties while on an empty stomach. At first they were thrilled that they will no longer be bored, only to realize that if you do nothing the hunger is slow but when you work the hunger comes fast and the pain of it appears.

Thrushpaw could hear faint growls from his companions' bellies, one of those were his own.

They arrived to the ravine, and into the fern tunnel. There were no enticing scents to be sniffed, just cats that smell bad and some had something worse..

sickness..

The sight of ThunderClan would make other clans very confident to fight them and claim their territory easily. Every warrior had ribs showing, no kits were playing..especially since there aren't any at the moment.

The elders despite being the first ones fed, also looked skinny and starving.

Doestar has rarely been out of her den ever since their apprentice ceremony. The only one who can see her is Cloudberry, not even Pineheart or Goosefeather is allowed inside.

"Sorry if we didn't find any prey Stormtail," Tawnypaw apologized to his mentor "It was my idea to just hang around at sunningrocks, hoping we find prey."

Before the bluish gray tom can reply, a fluffy tail blocked his mouth "That's alright you five." Moonflower smiled sadly "We didn't find any prey too, its just hard.."

Stormtail grunted as he removed her tail "But that does not give them a reason to make them do nothing and be lazy. You are all hungry, but that does not mean you can do less, because we are also hungry too..remember that."

Robinwing nodded "I can't remember when was the last time I ate a tasty squirrel or a plump mouse, it just seems like a dream. Right Poppydawn?"

The red furred she-cat chuckled "Oh I can't wait to find a plump mouse too. Its been a while since I ate that."

Thrushpaw saw Tawnypaw looking at him, a knowing look on his face as he made a face. Specklepaw also looked uneasy with the senior warrior unlike Whitepaw, who just nodded at the coment and Dapplepaw, who smiled at her mentor.

But the three apprentices noticed something amiss in her comment.

She mentioned a mouse, but didn't mentioned how long has it been since she had a squirrel..

They were all dismissed, and they ran off to the same direction of the camp. A familiar pelt of a she-cat was in a sleeping position, all alone within a nursery where no little ones were running because none remained.

Rainfur blinked her eyes open, waking up after her sleep, her kits the first thing she sees. She smiles at them as they playfully tried pinning her to the ground.

Whitepaw tried sitting on her but the warrior was fast. Tawnypaw tried pushing her but she avoided his paws and pulled his body downwards, making him fall.

"You can't defeat me. I'm a ShadowClan warrior!" she growled teasingly, running out.

All the apprentices chased her outside the nursery, gaining lookers from the bystanders. The thing they see are newly made apprentices, fighting a warrior that made herself look twice her size by fluffing her pelt and tail.

They battled her with sheathed claws, but the she-cat had been around longer, giving her the advantage.

Thrushpaw creeped towards her behind, while his littermates are tiring her out. Moonflower taught him the hunter's crouch and since they can't find any animals in the forest, she would be his prey.

He glanced at the warrior's den, Moonflower was sitting beside Stormtail, she shook her head and swished her tail.

What's wrong with my tail?

His tail was on the grass, dragging along. She stood up to crouch, demonstrating from afar.

You're doing it wrong. Raise your tail a bit. He imagined she was saying *Try avoiding your lower body brushing the grass.*.

He raised his belly a bit, making sure it did not brush the grass. His tail grew stiff as it did the same. He crept towards his mother, a smile on his face. Specklepaw saw him and grinned, she was planning to climb on their mother's back, but she let him.

He looked back at his mentor. She was bunching her muscles as she waggled her haunches, then she pounced on Stormtail, who grunted in surprise as she pinned him down. *Like that.* Moonflower winked at him.

Thrushpaw tried doing it, hoping he didn't look stupid. The others are busy play fighting their mother, she did not notice him from behind. *I'm close enough.*

One.

He bunched up his muscles, trying not to stiffen it.

Two.

He waggled his haunches.

Three!

He felt himself leap as high as he can, giving all his strength as if she was an actual prey. He outstretched his arms as they landed on his mother's nape. She let out a yowl of surprise as his sudden weight and his body landed on her back, the force going downwards at the same time forwards. Instead of pinning her down though, the two tumbled continously like a wheel, the sandy brown apprentice felt his back on the grass one second then the next in the air. He tried pushing his weight down again, the tumbling wheel stopped, his mother's face on the ground, him towering over her.

He got off his mother who did not move "Are you alright?!"

All of them surrounded their motionless mother. Worry was on their faces till they heard a cough.

Rainfur shook her pelt as she stood up "That was fun!" she laughed "Who was that?"

Tawnypaw patted Thrushpaw's back with a paw "This tom right here."

"Great move. Never been or seen that one in a situation before," a tom commented from behind.

The sandy brown apprentice beamed with pride when he realized who was the one impressed. Reddish brown fur, along with green eyes gleamed. Pineheart smiled at the apprentices, he touched Thrushpaw's shoulder with his thin tail.

"Do you really think it was?" he asked.

The ThunderClan deputy nodded "That's a move I've never seen being used, since no one can pull it off like that. It's a good thing that you have your own signature move."

Cloudberry then appeared out of nowhere "Okay, enough playing around. Pineheart, Doestar told me to tell you to send another hunting patrol."

The tom nodded "I guess I'll be leaving. I hope to see more of your signature moves soon Thrushpaw." He winked at him and left, calling the other warriors. At the corner of his eye, he can see his mentor Moonflower looking at him with pride, her fluffy chest puffed.

"Okay, Doestar also told me to send you all of to your den," The white she-cat mewed as she ushered the apprentices away from their mother "You'll be busy tomorrow, and sleeping would keep you guys from being even more hungry. Also, Rainfur you're not allowed to leave the nursery remember."

"Sorry." The she-cat padded back to the nursery.

"Wait, why can't she leave the nursery?" Dapplepaw asked, looking worried.

"Is something wrong with you, mother?" Specklepaw ran to their mother but a white tail made her trip on her paws. The medicine cat hissed in warning as she made a sudden battle stance which made the apprentices' furs bristle and their claws unsheathe, their tails lashing.

Cloudberry had a guilty look on her face as she stood up straight again "Its none of all your concerns to know why. Just do what Doestar said and go to the apprentice den..now."

It was a command.

They did not say anything else to her and did as she said. Dapplepaw, Specklepaw & Whitepaw stomped their way inside the den and into their beds. Tawnypaw did not say a word and just silently followed his sisters. Thrushpaw did the same but looked back to see what was happening at the other side.

He could see Rainfur coughing, then spitting something out. Cloudberry made her move deeper within the nursery, away from the liquid she had spat out. He could clearly see the medicine cat give her herbs that he does not know before talking to her. He can't see their faces but he's sure that they were talking about something serious. He watched as the she-cat left his mother and straight to

the leader's den. Pineheart has not yet left with his patrol, a warrior had asked a question and he replied that he'll ask Doestar. He padded to the highrock and was about to enter the leader's den, only to be pushed back by the medicine cat, who had her fur bristling and ears flattened as she hissed at his direction.

Why did she not let Pineheart talk to Doestar?

The hunting patrol headed for the fern tunnel, the question of the warrior was left unanswered.

"Hey Thrushpaw, you coming?"

He entered their den as he lay on his bed, that was in between all of his littermates. His bed was near the entrance though, the nursery was in his sights. He can see Rainfur peek outside, maybe seeing if Cloudberry was there, and lay down on her previous nest, ignoring the mess she spat.

All of them did not sleep yet, and were talking about random topics to distract themselves from the one question they wanted to actually talk about.

What's wrong with Rainfur?

↠ F i v e ↞

Poppydawn Entered the Apprentice's Den, poking her apprentice and the others. They stirred in their sleep as she tried to poke Dapplepaw again.

"Give me a few heartbeats.." she mumbled, curling her fluffy tail around herself.

With a sigh, the she-cat stood in the middle of the den "ShadowClan, attack!" she meowed loudly.

They all were alarmed and surprised.

"There's an attack!" Dapplepaw rose to her paws, her gaze wild as her claws unsheathed and her fur bristling.

"W-wait, what?" Whitepaw's eyes were wide, her tail bushy.

Thrushpaw and Specklepaw hissed as they leaped up, bumping into each other and falling down.

Tawnypaw just yawned quickly as he looked around "H-huh? what?..who are we attacking?"

All eyes were on Dapplepaw's mentor as she chuckled "Everyone get ready, you'll be on a hunting patrol with all your mentors. Be outside, no sleeping again or maybe RiverClan will come." She winked at them and left them in peace.

Some of them glared at her retreating figure then back at the tortoiseshell she-cat who looked embarassed by her mentor's behavior.

"Wow, she really is a great mentor, right guys?" Tawnypaw meowed sarcastically, making the others snicker.

"Okay I admit..she's annoying."

Tawnypaw rolled his eyes "One day, she'll be worse than what you thought she would be."

All of them swiftly groomed their messy pelts before going outside to meet their mentors. The fresh kill pile was as empty as a beech husk just like it has been for the past days. Doestar was still in her den, not appearing at least once to have a usual conversation with the senior warriors or give battle fighting tips to them.

"Glad that you're all awake, you all look excited." Moonflower observed their faint bloodshot red eyes around their pupils.

"More like surprised," Tawnypaw muttered.

Robinwing heard him and chuckled "Not a surprise if Poppydawn did that. One of the annoying things she does." The red furred warrior looked offended.

"Just kidding," the brown she-cat joked. "You know that all of us love you and your actions."

Not all of us.. Thrushpaw, Tawnypaw & Specklepaw looked at each other and nodded, the same silent response must have been in their minds. Whitepaw was quiet as well as Dapplepaw at their silent aggreement.

Sparrowpelt meowed at the mentors, a few warriors following behind him. And one of those cats, made Thrushpelt's spine tingle.

Windflight.

"Any news?" Stormtail asked.

The big dark brown tom nodded "We overheard that Doesar is ill, so Pineheart is gonna have to act like the leader for now. You all have been relocated to hunt at Snakerocks."

"No one has hunted there for a while ever since Doestar had gotten bitten once," Moonflower commented "Its worth a shot to look there."

"Then its settled, we'll hunt there. Thank you for the news also Sparrowfeather." Stormtail nodded before gathering them all, letting the other patrol go first out the fern tunnel.

Thrushpaw just watched his father look like he's daydreaming only to realize they were leaving. He looked at the apprentices, eyes landing on Dapplepaw.

"Where were you all going to hunt?" He asked.

Dapplepaw stood up straight, puffed her chest as her tail curled and she smiled, her eyes closed."Snakerocks, they said no one has been there for a while. And we'll be hunting there even if there are adders."

The older warrior had looked like he stopped listening to her once he got what he wanted in the question. He was looking now at Poppydawn, who looked back at him.

"Hope you catch prey and may StarClan light your path.." He quickly ran off and left, following the patrol.

"You too!" Dapplepaw had opened her eyes exactly when her father dissappeared the tunnel. She gave Thrushpelt a look.

"Told ya, he notices us..he's just busy," she mewed with confidence. By her side, Whitepaw had seen the exchange and now looked like she was having second thoughts about what the trio had said back when they were kits.

Before Tawnypaw could reply back to his sister Stormtail cleared his throat, getting their attention.

"Apprentices, you'll be only hunting the area that is near snakerocks. No one is allowed at teh actual area except mentors, unless you'll be alerting us about something." he meowed, his voice so deep and gruff it seemed like a growl.

Tawnypaw groaned at his mentor's words "Why can't we hunt there like you guys? We were already taught a few battle moves."

"Its because there are adders there that can poison you with just one

bite," Smallear snapped, making them flinch because he was the silent one among them and hated loud sounds "A full grown warrior a few seasons ago had just been poisoned when she got bit, she died immediately."

They listened to the warrior who told them a story that they had heard once an elder used to say when the topic was abput adders. There was a she-cat named Frecklewish who got bitten only once by an adder during a patrol near snakerocks. They had no medicine cat back then because he was killed the night before, so she died. They were surprised that Cloudberry was actually a RiverClan cat that volunteered on helping ThunderClan during that time. Pineheart was born shortly after that, and his father Oakstar had decreased the amount of cats going there.

"Why didn't she dodge the adder or run away?" Specklepaw was interested, especially since he said Frecklewish looked like her, minus the tabby stripes and add the actual dark speckles like Thrushpaw's.

"Adders are hard to kill, you need outstanding reflexes or you'd get bitten. They are also fast despite having no legs or paws, so outrunning them can get you bitten or may give you a slim chance on actually getting away. Climbing trees is the only way to guarantee survival." Poppydawn answered easily.

"Wow, you know so much about adders." Dapplepaw looked at her in awe.

"But what caused the adder to come out and notice her? Or maybe yet, why did she not notice the adder coming out a crack?" Whitepaw asked.

"Not sure about that," Smallear admitted "But Sparrowfeather said that Frecklewish must have been fighting something. Her claws were unsheathed and her fur from every part of her body was bushed twice her size. There was no scent of a fox or badger though."

They kept asking questions as they padded to the tunnel to get outside camp. Thrushpelt was silent as he thought about the story.

What if that something that had fought her was actually 'someone'..?

↠ S i x ↞

Rainfur Had Gotten Worse.

At least, that is what Thrushpaw and the others had overheard a patrol talk about as they passed by. Of course, they went silent once they saw them, the kits (and foster kits) of the she-cat.

It did not take long till that the news in the Clan they overheard when it spread that there was an sickness scattering onto them. The cats who had them were Doestar, and unfortunately, also Rainfur.

It was only Cloudberry who was allowed to approach both queens, which means that this sort of illness was serious. All of the apprentices were worried about the well being of their mother, and this made them determined to find prey as soon as possible for her.

Their mentors were not with them again, they were sent to hunt at Snakerocks, while they were sent to hunt nearby their location, as long as they don't come to the adder infested rocks.

"Ugh, have you seen any birds..or maybe mice?" Dapplepaw looked defeated as she angled her ears everywhere, not hearing anything no seeing any sort of movement.

"Nope, the area is as barren as leafbare..whatever it looks like."

Specklepaw flicked a random pebble with her paw "Isn't leafbare the season with no leaves and the white stuff?"

Tawnypaw shrugged "I forgot."

"We were all born in greenleaf, and a few of the green leaves in the trees are starting to become orange and red..so maybe its going to be leaffall soon," Dapplepaw mewed.

The conversation stopped when all of them heard a very faint *squeak.* They all pricked their ears to find out where it came from but it was the tortoiseshell she-cat who responded. Dapplepaw sped

away so fast that a light breeze tingled their whiskers and where she had been was no longer where she stood.

The undergrowth rustled as a tail poked out of it. Then, a furry head emerged out, something little and brown dangling in her jaws.

"You caught a mouse!" Whitepaw was delighted as well as the others. Dapplepaw dropped the dead prey and licked her chest shyly.

"I only caught one though," she said sadly "I couldn't find anything else."

"That's better than finding nothing at all," Tawnypaw reminded her "C'mon, let's all try to find something else to catch."

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They Found Nothing Else..

They had roamed so far that they almost reached the riverside but they still can't find anything else. A ThunderClan hunting patrol stumbled upon them, also with nothing yet.

They were heading back to snakerocks, hoping that their mentors won't notice that they had went too far than what they had actually permitted them. The dark clouds from before several sunrises before had came back, not as dark nor as much as they were, hopefully it means the rain is not gonna be heavy.

"Had you guys seen Windflight by the way?" Specklepaw asked. Tawnypaw and Thrushpaw just kept walking, hoping that there won't be another argument.

"We saw him leave for a hunting patrol earlier right? Don't tell me we'll talk about that issue with Poppydawn again." Dapplepaw looked at the three of them seriously, making Whitepaw from beside her silent.

"Why won't we?" Tawnypaw had joined in as he looked back at her "You still don't want to accept the fact that Thruspaw had caught him with prey that *he* shared with *her*, let me add in that he ***never*** gave prey to *us.* Also when we caught him again, putting new feathers on her bed next to his, which I found out also that her bed was actually mother's, and still ***never*** giving those kind of things to ***us!***"

The others just watched the two get aggressive, tails low and flicking. The sound of thunder boomed, not as loud as the ones before, but still surprising. Then, rain poured down on them lightly, their fur wet despite the softness of the shower. The others did not take cover because they were preparing themselves to seperate the two if they fight..again.

Tawnypaw let out a warning growl at his sister "One day, you'll realize that what we said was true."

Dapplepaw hissed back at him "Until that day you say comes, I will look at *our father* with respect and at *my mentor* as a role model that I will be like one day!"

"What if that day would be today?"

The two were thankfully stopped when Thrushpaw spoke up. While they were busy being mouse brains, they didn't realize that they were by the Great Sycamore, the mini hill with a huge sycamore tree that had trees far away from it, making it have a mini clearing around it as well. But that's not what had caught the attention of the sandy brown tom to get theirs.

It was the two cats sitting underneath the big tree.

Light gray fur next to dark red fur.

"You shouldn't really have to come all the way here to see me," a

feminine voice mewed.

Tawnypaw and the others padded closer, hiding behind the undergrowth and the trees as they listened to them. Whitepaw looked at the she-cat beside her who she had sided with, pity in her eyes.

"I'd do anything to get to spend some time with you," another voice replied, followed with a chuckle.

The she-cat licked her lips as she bit down on a familiar brown furred mouse "You are lucky to find a mouse, haven't had one for a while. Where did you find it?"

The tortoiseshell hadn't noticed until now why the mound of earth she had used in burrying something became smaller when they passed it.

"I just chased the thing nearby here. It was tiring but at least I caught one for you."

Lies..

Dapplepaw's ears drooped, a sad and betrayed look on her face. She had admired them both, and the truth was too much.

Father & Mentor.

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Family & Friend.

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Windflight & Poppydawn.

↠ S e v e n ↞

No One Said a Thing.

They watched as the two took turns eating the only prey that they had caught out of pure luck. Dapplepaw's eyes glistened just looking at them, her claws digging deep into the earth.

Thrushpaw looked at her with pity as well as Whitepaw, Tawnypaw and Specklepaw looked at the two cats with anger, hatred in their eyes.

"Wait, what about the others?" Poppydawn looked at her 'companion'.

"The apprentices will be given prey by the other hunting patrols, as well as the elders. Pineheart told me and the others to give what prey we caught to the one who needs it most, so I gave it to you." Windflight flashed her a sickening sweet smile that they despised.

Thrushpaw unconsciously growled lowly from afar, his irises in slits as he imagined his mother that looked so skiny and frail that she even managed to bare not eating a worm he offered her back then. The sight of tree bark that she ate disgustingly but desperately did to keep her alive.

Rainfur is the one that needs it the most..

Dapplepaw sniffled, they all waited for her to burst into tears, to run up to them and claw their pelts and to carry it back to their den to use as decoration. But her eyes only glistened, tears did not fall.

"Dapplepaw, are you okay?" Whitepaw asked, concern laced in her voice.

The tortoiseshell apprentice took deep breaths and smiled "Y-yeah..I'm okay. I forgot that I didn't kill my..m-mouse before

burying it, must have run away. Let's go home."

She ran off first, possibly back to camp so she can sleep on her moss bed, and dream about a place where everything was the same, where she was still happy and did not believe her littermates about the bad things they have seen.

But after what she saw, everything that Thrushpaw had said was true.

They followed their sister, leaving the two warriors who are sharing a moment in peace.

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Something Was Amiss.

When they had catched up with Dapplepaw, they all headed down from the ravine and through the fern tunnel. But what was unusual is that they can feel their clanmates' eyes on them, which was actually true, they were glowing since their surroundings darkened because of the rain.

Thrushpaw did not know why, that's what scared him.

"What's wrong with them?" Tawnypaw tried ignoring their gazes as he looked the other way. "Their acting as if someone is..dying."

They all looked at each other in fear.

Goosefeather appeared from the nursery, his pale blue eyes saw them, with his tail he gestured them over. Without hesitation they ran towards him.

"How's Rainfur?"

"Is she okay?"

"Can we see her?"

The medicine cat apprentice growled, shutting them up. He shook his head sadly, no words needed to know what that meant.

"She couldn't handle the hunger.." He said in a whisper "She's been vomiting."

The three she-cats were the first ones to enter, pushing him aside without apologizing. The two brothers just stood near from the entrance only to see a bad sight.

Rainfur was trembling, her skin looked like they were very thin,her bones were more visible than they were yesterday. Her stomach growled so loudly that even their bellies can't reach that volume. Something wet covered her mouth and it seemed bitter and bad scented. All around the nursery floors were wet puddles of the same scented bitter thing, and it made his stomach churn at the sight and scent.

She's been vomiting..

Thrushpaw could not believe this was the she-cat who gave birth to him, who had taught him how to be a sweet, thoughtful and loving tom, to help clanmates in need.

Rainfur opened her eyes, they looked almost lifeless as she weakly smiled at her kits.

"Why didn't you tell us that you were *that* hungry?" Tawnypaw meowed, tears welling up his eyes for the first time.

"I would have shared that scrawny blackbird we were all given and shared it with you too." Specklepaw tried acting mad at her foster mother, but she cried as well..seeing that there was no point at being mad at the one who did it to raise her and her sister Whitepaw.

"If I ate th-that..Dapplepaw w-will always be-e hungry.." She coughed, blood and white foamy saliva appearing from her mouth. They had to back up as she lay on the ground sideways, vomiting something as bitter and bad as mouse bile, her barf stained half of her face on the ground, the disgusting thing making her fur soggy, but she did not move nor try rubbing it off.

She just lay there, defeated.

They just sat by her, watching as the sickness started absorbing her life away.

"Is there anything you can do?" Goosefeather shook his head sadly at the apprentice's question.

Guilt was in his eyes. *How come?* "Cloudberry tried her best. But even Doestar has the same illness. She's in the leader's den, hoping for the best."

Thrushpaw muted their conversation from his mind as he focused on his mother. He remembered the moments they had when his littermates were sleeping, but he and her were still awake, talking about things that would calm themselves. She even promised him that once she's allowed to do warrior duties again they would hunt rabbits and thrushes, or maybe play by the river, while Dapplepaw complains or maybe Tawnypaw decides to make a large splash in the shallow waters, making them wetter.

You promised we'd have fun mother, why are you leaving so soon?

They tried to make Rainfur be quiet, to keep her remaining strength. But she grunted, wanting to say something.

"Tawnypaw, Specklepaw?" The two pricked their ears to listen to her "B-be the parent..of your littermates..since I'm not going to be..around."

She glanced at the sobbing she-cats "Whitepaw..please be as close as you are to Dapplepaw, never leave her side." The pale white apprentice wiped her tears and whispered an 'I promise'.

Then, the dying queen looked at her biological daughter.

"Dapplepaw.."

"I'm sorry!" She wailed, burying her head on her mother's soft chest "I should have tried harder to find prey for you. I'm sorry I never thought about sharing those worms you always gave us when we were kits. I'm sorry I never asked if you were okay."

Her yellow eyes flashed with grief & regret as she looked at hers "I'm sorry that I can't help you.."

Rainfur smiled sadly "My brave daughter.." She struggled raising a paw but she managed to do it, her soft paw pads caressing her daughter's cheek "You know that you can't save everyone, even me. Not even your father had found prey right?"

The dying she-cat did not notice the silent look the apprentices gave each other. Dapplepaw's eyes darkened with anger in just a heartbeat.

Windflight had found prey, so did Dapplepaw. They were just unfortunately given to the wrong cat..

"If only your father was here, he would be all proud of you.." Rainfur shed a tear, which was not what the tom she had spoke of deserved.

She then looked at the green eyed tom beside his brother. "Thrushpaw," she softly mewed. She beckoned him closer, Dapplepaw initiatively moving away.

Thrushpaw can only feel sadness when she gave him a sad smile "It seems that I have to go soon, I can feel my family here..calling for me to follow now." He sadly touched her nose with his, just like they would use to do when he was little not so long ago.

"I love you..my sweet little thrush," Rainfur purred, her eyes starting to droop.

"I love you too mother."

They waited for their StarClan ancestors to take her spirit with them to the stars once she dies. But they did not know that it would

be in a painful way. She trembled violently as her fur fluffed up and she moaned in pain. Medicine cats look like this when receiving prophecies (they call it seizures) but this one looked too heartbreaking to watch. Dapplepaw was the only one who got the courage to nuzzle herself on the foul smelling queen, her paws on her shoulders trying to keep her steady.

But Goosefeather had entered the nursery with an alarmed look "Don't try to stop her shaking!" he hissed "It will last longer."

With heavy hearts, they had to watch their mother's death, not wanting to look away. It felt like ages till her body stilled, her head falling on the wet ground.

She finally passed away.

All of them felt cold and hollow inside, as the rain poured down from the dark sky onto their gloomy and starving ThunderClan..

↠ E i g h t ↞

Rainfur's Death Was Heartbreaking..

Goosefeather looked sympathetic as he stared at the dead queen "I'm going to get moss to clean her and the..mess."

He left the five apprentices to grieve. Whitepaw and Specklepaw tried comforting their sister, who looked like she was about to break down. Dapplepaw placed a paw on her mother's chest, maybe trying to feel for a heartbeat and to see if there was hope that she was alive.

But it was still.

Tears welled up again in her eyes as she wailed like a kit. She herself trembled like a leaf as she leaned her head on her. Tawnypaw was crying as well as Thrushpaw, who felt like something clawed at his heart.

Why did you have to go so soon mother?

A shadow blocked the dull light coming from the outside, they had thought it was Goosefeather already, who must have brought the moss, but it was someone else.

Windflight.

The gray warrior looked in horror at the sight in front of him. He must have smelled the foul order of her vomit because he scrunched up his nose at disgust. If someone had seen him, he would look like the antagonist at their perspective.

Which he did.

Dapplepaw raised her head to see who was the one blocking the light. Her eyes turned into slits as her teeth bared instinctively, meaning she felt angry.

"You.." She growled.

Despite Windflight being tall and older than her, he looked like he was being cornered, as he cowered at her gaze.

"I'm sorry," He apologized "I did not me-..

He did not finish what he wanted to say because of a ferocious snarl drowned his soft voice. Dapplepaw carefully walked over her mother's body, stepping on the disgusting liquid, although it looked like that she didn't mind. Her claws unsheathed as she ran up to him, leaping at the surprised tom, making them tumble outside in a wheel like how Thrushpaw had did with Rainfur yesterday.

And just like the other day, it was Dapplepaw who ended up top, pinning the warrior from underneath her.

"You're sorry?!" She let out a sarcastic laugh "It sure does look like you are."

Her claws dug deep on his throat, blood starting to pour slowly out. His eyes flashed in alarm as he used his hind legs to kick her off, which he managed to do.

"I am!" He meowed "I ran as fast as I can when I heard that she..passed away."

Other cats got attracted at the two who had caught their attention. The tortoiseshell apprentice's pelt bristled, her tail bushy as it kept lashing. She let out a frustrated growl as she charged at him again. Her claws swiped at him, he had dodged a few, but some managed to hit his face, some at his chest, dangerously close to his throat.

When she leaped, he ran.

When she swiped her claws, he dodged.

When she pinned him down again, he scratched her face instinctively.

Blood poured down from the huge gash on her cheek. All four claws managed to scrape skin. Dapplepaw's scratches on him are not as

critical as his blow is, hers only seemed like little scrapes since she was an apprentice, the one on his throat was the only serious wound.

Tawnypaw had ran up to them to yank her away. Goosefeather has came out of his den with a ball of wet moss. He just stared at the three cats in the clearing, not wanting to intervene.

"It's funny isn't it?" Tawnypaw glared at his father, his words slow and clear "The **last** and **only** time you came to see us was when mother had to literally yell at you to come see us. I was a kit back then, a kit who looked up and idolized a cat he calls the warrior his 'father'."

He blocked Dapplepaw's way to avoid her pouncing on him again "Back then, I thought you were busy. But I also thought that you didn't want to see us, you even mistakened me as Dapplepaw for StarClan's sake!"

Dapplepaw looked like she wasn't done speaking as she looked at the cats who were looking at them "Cats of ThunderClan, you may not know this but *my* father broke the code!" Murmurs of cats were heard as Windflight shot her a horrified look.

"Thrushpaw was the one who had saw him once as a kit." Tawnypaw added, shooting his father a look of disgust in reply to his.

"He was found eating a squirrel, which he could have fed us back then but he did not!" Dapplepaw voiced out loud, Cloudberry poked her head weakly out the leader's den curiously after being gone for quite a while that day.

Whitepaw stood beside Dapplepaw "And today, we found him at the Great Sycamore eating a mouse! The worse part is that Dapplepaw was the one who caught it and buried it in the ground. We heard him say to a cat that he caught it himself!"

"He shared the prey with that cat," Specklepaw joined in "When that cat asked if we were fed back then and today, he said that we were but we were not at all!"

Gasps and infuriated meows of cats aroused from the crowd. Their harsh glares sent to the tom who looked like he wanted to be swallowed by the ground and never appear again. Pineheart had emerged from the warrior's den and looked at the commotion with observation.

Dapplepaw nudged Tawnypaw aside as she approached Windflight till they were face to face. She was still an appentice though so her height only reached his chest, but that did not stop her from looking at him in the eye.

"Mother died because of hunger, hunger that would have been solved if she was given prey to eat. Did you give her any prey? No! You left her to starve, you left her with *three* of ***your kits*** and two more kits who lost a mother!!!" Dapplepaw snarled "I'm disgusted that you even decided to see her dead and to show your face.."

Pineheart approached the family, a brow raised as he looked at his warrior. "Windflight, is this all true?"

Windflight couldn't look him in the eye as he bowed his head in shame "Y-yes..Pineheart."

The reddish brown tom let out a growl of anger "You know the code. We are to hunt to feed the kits, the elders, and the queens, not to ourselves! And here I found out that out of all the cats, a *warrior* is the one to give in to their needs. Even the apprentices, who are also your kits, knew how to adapt and bear with the hunger like us."

Pineheart looked at the tortoiseshell apprentice's wound "Go to Goosefeather so that he may tend to your injury."

Tawnypaw and the others took her to the medicine den, where the gray speckled tom was waiting. Most of the warriors continued with what they were doing, but this time shooting their fellow warrior glares that could maybe bury him six fox lengths underground.

Pineheart growled at Windflight "Your punishment will be discussed shortly. For now, you will be the one standing vigil for the whole night, no one will take the second shift."

With that the ThunderClan deputy turned tail and walked away. Thrushpaw just stood where he was, not wanting to follow the others because he may crowd Goosefeather's den. His father looked so vulnerable right now, despite the small scratches he got from Dapplepaw they still bled and looked slightly painful.

Windflight did not look at any of the cats as he turned away, only to meet his gaze. Pale green eyes meet his bright green ones, seeming to observe him. He must have noticed that he didn't look as furious as his siblings earlier.

Its like someone whispered in his ear to do something. His father's ears drooped, a sad look on his face instead of the regretful one all of a sudden. He headed for the gorse tunnel, his long tail dragging on the grass. He moved at a very slow pace that it would have irritated anyone. Thrushpaw shook his head as he was about to approach his father and talk to him about it. Its like he wanted him to stop him and give him the sympathy & attention he wanted.

He stopped.

Something in Thrushpaw's mind nagged at him again. A memory came back to when he and Rainfur used to talk about him.

"Why was he nervous about giving you a thrush again?" a sandy brown kit asked, curious to listen about his mother's perspective again.

Rainfur shrugged "No idea. But he looked so pitiful in that way so I sympathized and gave him my attention.."

He looked at his father, who had been already looking at him expectantly.

It's all an act..

Thrushpaw knew that if he took the bait, it would fuel him to use it on him again, making him the one look vulnerable. He sadly shook his head at him.

I'm sorry.

Windflight broke his mask of vulnerability as guilt crept its way

back into his face. He fastened his pace as he padded into the tunnel, the last thing to be seen was his tail before it was all gone.

With that he headed for the medicine cat den to ask Goosefeather for the wet moss. He did not want to talk to Dapplepaw or the others, since they are still angry and fuming, which he wasn't.

As he entered the nursery, he quickly moved his mother's body away from the vomit, her being the first thing he started to clean. Her body had already lost its warmth, despite he passing away not so long ago.He dampened her foul scented soggy fur on one side to remove the smell of barf. There were only two feelings he felt within him as he thought.

Grief & Disapointment.

↠ N i n e ↞

The Clan Was Uneasy.

Ever since the big reveal of Windflight's 'incident' everyone was watching him like a hawk during patrols.

Doestar had died with an illness that night, Cloudberry wanted to be by her side despite the risk of getting infected. Pineheart had found them both dead the next day. Their vigil as well as Rainfur's was not the same because they were suspected to have the sickness spread. They were buried immediately.

That left Goosfeather as the official medicine cat, Featherpaw was now the only medicine cat apprentice. His brother Sunpaw had already gotten his warrior name which was Sunfall, he's a very skilled tom as he easily swelled up the ranks of the warriors, making him an experienced warrior in a matter of one moon.

The next gathering will be soon, Thrushpaw usually stays behind as his littermates go, during his whole apprenticeship he had only went once.

Moonflower gave him a whole day off to hunt with his littermates. Windflight's punishment was to do apprentice duties and the nursery cleaning till all apprentices were to become warriors, since he does not have any apprentice at the moment. No one knew till today who was the mysterious cat who he shared prey with, no one confessed nor did he tell. So everyone looked at each other like they were enemies. Which is what it shouldn't be..

Everyone's on edge lately..

They were walking along the Thunderpath, making their own little border patrol before heading for the Owl tree to hunt. Tawnypaw was at the lead, and Thrushpaw was at the rear, both protecting their sisters.

"All I'm saying is why we didn't expose Poppydawn to the crimes she has done?" Dapplepaw meowed "She has done something that also broke the code, so why keep her anonymous?"

Specklepaw meowed from behind her "Thrushpaw said that the first time that happened, she was fooled that we were fed. That happened the second time, saying that the apprentices were fed..which we were not."

"That's not an enough reason but look what she is doing now." Tawnypaw added "She's been joining a lot of hunting patrols now, even Pinestar thought she's just wanting to try and find food for us now after finding out we're half starved and most of our bellies are filled with barks and worms..yuck!"

"I still can't believe she believed him though." Thrushpaw admitted "I found out from Adderfang that he lied that he was gonna feed us when he had seen him with the squirrel, so no one thought of visiting Rainfur to ask if she needs herbs to keep her strength."

Dapplepaw grunted "Poppydawn is still the bad cat too in my perspective, right Whitepaw?"

They expected the silent she-cat to meow in agreement, but turns out this one would be different.

Whitepaw shook her head "As much as I want to agree with you Dapplepaw, you should look at it from Poppydawn's perspective too. How would you feel if a tom with mate and kits became too nice to you and shyly offered a piece of prey, prey that was almost nonexistent in the forest might I add, and also lied that he fed cats who are *his* own *kits*."

"Bu-"

"She was given special treatment without even knowing it was. If she were to be exposed, then she is going to be punished for something that she did not mean for him to do. He left his mate and kits to starve to feed her, that's father's fault of weight to carry, not her. If you were Poppydawn, would you want to receive the anger of his kits to something you did not know he was doing?"

Dapplepaw was silent, both because of Whitepaw for once not siding with her and her explanation.

Specklepaw was the one to cut the silence with her claw as she playfully nudged the two she-cats "As long as we don't be like Poppydawn or Windflight when we grow up I can say we're all okay, right?"

"Left." They all meowed in unison, chuckling.

"That's the worse joke I've heard.." Whitepaw groaned, running ahead "I'm leaving you lousy jokers to your patrol."

"Wait!" Specklepaw laughed at her 'walking out' "We won't do it again."

"Yeah right!" Her voice yelled from ahead.

"Left!" Tawnypaw yelled back.

A frustrated groan was her next reply, making the others laugh. They tried calling her again, but she did not reply.

There was silence.

Tawnypaw yelled again "Whitepaw I swear if you're giving us the silent treatment you can eat a stink bug for all I care."

No one replied.

Specklepaw's fur ruffled "Guys, something's not right..please don't say left."

"We weren't." Dapplepaw rolled her eyes as Tawnypaw stiffled a chuckle "It isn't like Whitepaw to give us the silent treatment..and she's the silent one for StarClan's sake!"

They cautiously quickened their pace to where the white apprentice ran, hoping that nothing bad happens. They tried listening for anything but the monsters thought it was great timing to run on the Thunderpath, almost making them deaf because of their roars. But they whiffed a disgusting scent of something, and it wasn't the

smoke of the multiple colored beasts.

It was a badger's.

As the roaring of a blue monster faded as it sped away, they heard the familiar shriek of a she-cat.

"Help!!"

They all ran after the source of her cry. The strong scent of badger tainted the air, making them choke in it.

Tawnypaw quickly meowed "Someone needs to go back to camp, who's the fastest?"

"Me, I'll go get help," Specklepaw volunteered.

"Okay, hurry."

The pale ginger tabby apprentice nodded as she changed direction, sprinting so fast she dissappeared from their sight. They found Whitepaw at the very edge of the Thunderpath, her hind paw almost touching the black smooth ground. The badger looked like it was young, its size like a plump RiverClan elder.

"Get away from her!" Tawnypaw spat, hackles raising.

The badger turned its attention to the tom, growling in response.

"Whitepaw slip away to the other side of it while you can!" Whitepaw didn't need to be told twice as she stealthily moved away from the Thunderpath.

"Dapplepaw, claw or bite its left hind leg. Whitepaw, go for its right. Thrushpaw, you're with me."

They took turns in taking blows at the badger's legs, averting its attention from one apprentice to the next. Once one of them injures the badger, they jump back and far away as possible.

Dapplepaw got too confident that they won't get hurt that she slashed her claws on its thigh instead. The badger growled in anger

as it turned around to face her. But she also did the same.

"What are you doing?!" Tawnypaw yelled from the other side of the badger "Let go!"

"I can't!" She hissed, her eyes wide in fear "My claw is stuck and I can't get it out.."

The fur of the animal was so tangled that her claw can't be tugged or removed unless she raises her paw upwards. The problem with that is the badger should stop moving.

The two have been going around in circles. Dapplepaw struggled to walk on three paws, with one stuck on the beast. She eventually tired out as she collapsed, being dragged around instead. The badger's dark eyes focused on its target as it raised a paw, about to give a fatal blow.

Dapplepaw closed her eyes.

"GET AWAY FROM HER YOU BEAST!!" Whitepaw charged in towards the two. She pushed her paw upwards to set her free just as the badger's claws scraped skin.

Blood stained the grass, and it wasn't the badger's.

Whitepaw shrieked in pain as she staggered back, her face smeared with her own blood. A large gash on her left eye can be seen, reddish pink flesh exposed with no white fur on it. Her eye looked like it got hurt real bad, it was closed..and blood still gushed out like tears.

The badger was about to strike again till the two brothers charged at it, their claws unsheathed and teeth bared. Tawnypaw attacked to its left, Thrushpaw to the right. They sucessfully averted its attention again as Dapplepaw guided their sister to the undergrowth.

"We can't do this much longer.." Thrushpaw meowed, scared that he might get something worse than Whitepaw's injury.

Tawnypaw growled as he clawed the badger's leg "Just keep doing

it!"

It was true that they couldn't do it much longer, but then a flash of fiery ginger fur and mixes of brown & gray appeared out of the trees. A pale ginger she-cat tagged along with a warrior look and a growl coming out of her.

"Specklepaw!" Thrushpaw and Tawnypaw said in unison.

Sunfall leaped on the badger's flank, pulling it to the right. Moonflower was also here, along with Stonepelt, Stormtail, Smallear & Sparrowpelt. The reddish brown furred leader also appeared to help them.

"Stand back!" Pinestar commanded the three apprentices.

The warriors did the same thing Tawnypaw had told them to do. They clawed and bit its legs, making the badger back up near the Thunderpath. Sunfall was clinging to its tangled fur, pulling on one side to make it go there.

They kept doing the same thing, till they were all on the middle of the black ground. The ground began to shake as Pinestar used a tail signal.

"ThunderClan, retreat!" With one last tug to the badger's left, Sunfall took off and followed the others to the safe side of their territory. The badger was about to follow till a large monster roared as it passed, a large shout of someone in pain followed.

Once the monster was gone, they can se that the badger crippled its front leg. It let out a final growl at the group of cats as it limped onto ShadowClan territory, disappearing in the pines.

They all were breathing heavily, Pinestar approached all of them as he sniffed their pelts.

"I smell blood, who's injured?"

"Whitepaw.." Dapplepaw meowed as she and Whitepaw appeared out of the undergrowth. Smallear ran up to his apprentice, licking her blood stained face.

"I'm sorry we didn't come sooner," he apologized "I should have been with all of you."

Whitepaw smiled, leaning onto her mentor's shoulders.

"Smallear, Stormtail & Dapplepaw, take Whitepaw to Goosefeather." The three cats nodded as they guided the half blind apprentice back to camp.

Moonflower nuzzled her apprentice "I'm glad the rest of you are okay."

"Its all because Tawnypaw told us what to do. He really is good at making us do teamwork." Thrushpaw meowed.

Sunfall glanced at the ShadowClan territory on the other side "Those scratch marks and bites on the badger's legs..how did you know where to hurt it and how did you do it?"

Thrushpaw explained about the technique his brother told them to do and about how quickly he reacted when Whitepaw was in trouble. The light gray apprentice demonstrated his moves and why he did all that he said and done while the warriors looked at him with pride for their clanmate.

"He even immediately asked who was the fastest to send back to camp for backup instead of dealing it ourselves," Specklepaw meowed "Tawnypaw really knows how to lead a patrol."

Thrushpaw was curious to why Pinestar was silent. His eyes gleamed with an unknown expression as he watched the apprentice claw the air and demonstrate his moves.

"But Thrushpaw really helped me the most..besides the oters and you Specklepaw." Tawnypaw nudged his brother "Even though he was tired he did all that he can to save Whitepaw from the badger."

"And I think that's enough adventure for today." Sunfall smiled "Its best that we go back to camp."

They all headed back to their home, with Pinestar in the lead and Tawnypaw beside him. Thrushpaw walked alongside Moonflower as

they passed the trees and the disgusting scent of the badger and the Thunderpath was faint.

"You really impressed me on how you all fought the badger while we weren't there yet. I'm proud of all of you." His mentor purred.

He watched as his brother leaped into the air as Pinestar and the others laughed at his eagerness to explain the story. A smile crept onto his face.

"I'm proud of all of us too." He purred as well.

A/N: Tysm for reading! Sorry I disappeared all of a sudden, I'll be updating offer again haha

↠ T e n ↞

The Forest was a Wonderland.

The sound of chirping birds and the scuttling paws of forest critters were music to a forest cat's ears. It has been a while since there were signs of prey to be alive and active in a season. Leafbare has passed so slow and painful for them so they tried to catch everything they can to bring back their strength.

A sandy brown tom has been in the forest since the sun had rose. Time had passed and the sun was already high up in the sky, meaning that he had been here for a really long time.

His green eyes glanced from side to side, looking for anything that would be his next target. He had been unsucessful catching squirrels that ran so fast or the occasional rabbit that had hid in a burrow that had a tunnel so dark, he gave up on that one because he had scented fox in that hole.

His ears moved at different angles, hoping to hear any sign of life. A rustling of leaves and the flapping of wings can be heard to the left.

Prey!

He crouched as low as he can, making sure his tail did not touch the grass to make noise.

Silently, he crept towards where the noise came from. His pelt hid so well with the brambles that he did no need to crouch lower to hide on the shadow..ish side.

The thrush seems to be pecking something on the edge of the sort of cliff. The apprentice has passed this area most of the time and knew that the bottom of this mini cliff is a thick layer of grassy ground that sloped downwards since it leads to sunningrocks from the East side.

He bunched his muscles in as he started waggling his haunches.

Pounce!

He leaped out of his hiding spot, startling the thrush. It left behind whatever it had been pecking on as it rapidly flapped its wings, hoping to reach a branch to safety.

But before it can reach one of the branches his jaws snapped shut on the bird's wings, dragging it down with him.

That high leap brought him over the edge of the mini cliff, he landed on all four paws on the soft damp grass, still having the struggling piece of prey dangling from his mouth.

The apprentice let it drop, knowing that it can't fly anymore. The thrush seemed to know it too so it tried to run off, startling the tom. He quickly pinned it to the ground and nipped at its neck, instantly killing the animal.

A figure of a large cat appeared from behind him, a purr rumbling in his throat.

"Well done Thrushpaw," one of his mentors, Stonepelt congratulated him on his catch.

Thrushpaw smiled, happy that he had pleased his mentor "How did I do?"

"Well besides that juicy thrush, you caught a vole, two mice, and one of the squirrels you chased died because of the injuries you gave it so that's counted I guess.."

Even though Pinestar insisted that he be made a warrior a few moons ago after the badger attack, the sandy brown apprentice said that he wasn't ready to be a warrior and wanted more moons of training and to do an assesment (which surprised a lot of cats.) Stonepelt was very pleased that despite him being given a warrior name because of fighting a badger, he still wanted to do an assesment. During that time he was also a newly made apprentice so it made sense too that he didn't want to be a warrior just beause of a battle he won. Tawnypaw didn't want to be alone during a

ceremony so he also said what Thrushpaw wanted.

A fiery ginger tom appeared out from the undergrowth and nodded "I can say you did well, let's go back to camp."

Sunfall was Thrushpaw's official mentor but Pinestar also assigned Stonepelt to help the warrior in his training. Because of his fast learning and great status, Sunfall was made deputy at such a young age.

The three went back and dug up the other prey Thrushpaw had buried, as they carried everything back to camp.

Once they entered through the gorse tunnel, they were greeted by cats of ThunderClan, who most were already done with most of their duties and were sharing tongues. Some cats came to look at the prey that they brought, as they placed it on the fresh kill pile.

"We'll be talking to Pinestar about your assessment," Sunfall meowed "By the way, Moonflower hasn't eaten yet. Give her something to eat, maybe a big squirrel since she's already as hungry as a badger nowadays." at that joke the warrior purred softly as his lips quirked up a bit.

Stonepelt and Sunfall disappeared within the leader's den, leaving him alone. Thrushpaw grabbed a squirrel and headed for the nursery.

Moonflower had to stop from training her apprentice when she realized that she was expecting kits on the day of the badger attack. That's why Sunfall was immediately all knowing and had him as an apprentice, but even he asked advice from the apprentice's previous mentor for anything useful when training him. Of course Thrushpaw didn't mind and was happy for her, even though she's confined to the nursery she still gives him tips or teaches him. She was sunning herself outside the entrance of the nursery. The sun's light made her silver fur gleam like the same colored fish in the river, her stomach looked really bloated and round. Her kits were due soon, and she has been really excited.

The napping queen opened her eyes when she heard him

approaching. She smiled when Thrushpaw placed the squirrel in front of her.

"Here's your share for the day, Sunfall suggested I give you this, sorry if hunting took longer than expected."

She licked her lips and bowed her head slightly at him "Thank you Thrushpaw, tell Sunfall that I am very pleased with his choice of prey, would you like to share?"

He hadn't ate anything yet for today, his stomach had growled on its own, making the decision. "Sure, but only maybe a bite or two."

The squirrel was plump and juicy, he had more than one bite. Moonflower let the hungry apprentice eat more than what he said since she didn't tell him that she already ate a scrawny mouse earlier.

"So, how are the kits?" Thrushpaw asked, looking at her really big belly. He remembered a joke where she said she felt like exploding, that creeped him out but then realized that having a stomach that's big was normal for queens.

"They are very alive, and very rowd- oh!" The queen jerked and stretched her neck as far as she could to lap the fur that ruffled on her belly. "Featherwhisker says I might have two or three and it seems that one of them is a fighter. Here, let me show you." She made him put his paw on one part of her stomach. He felt uneasy when something kept kicking on that side he touched.

"Is this..normal?" He wasn't used to this feeling, he wondered how medicine cats would just touch a queen without thinking if she wanted purrsonal space.

"Yeah, Featherwhisker says that this one is a fighter. I can feel it kick me every time."

"Oh, this one's definitely a warrior. Eager to get out," he joked.

"I know right? I hope that when they're born you'd all become best friends. And who knows? Maybe when its a she-cat you'd be her mate."

Thrushpaw felt hot beneath his fur "Don't joke about that." he laughed awkwardly "If it was even a she-cat, why me?"

"Well, you're one of the sweetest toms I know, you'd be a great father figure." She admitted, looking at her former apprentice with pride.

Before the tom can be more embarassed about talking about unborn kits becoming his future mate a reddish brown colored tom appeared on top of the highrock.

"Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath the highrock for a clan meeting."

It was time.

Thrushpaw felt a tongue rasp his cheek only to see Moonflower doing it.

"Since Rainfur is not around anymore, let me do this for you." The silver queen meowed in between licks.

He didn't mind though, Moonflower used to practice how to groom his pelt in practice for when her kits arrive. She also knew that Rainfur used to do this all the time to comfort him, and he is happy when she is doing it. After he was clean all over, he thanked her before going to the large crowd where his mentor was.

"Hurry up, you know why we're gathered." Stonepelt purred, a happy gleam in his eye.

Thrushpaw made his way to the front beside his brother Tawnypaw. They had a foster sister which was Specklepaw, but sadly she did not fight the badger so she will be still going on with her apprentice duties. Whitepaw is her sister and she was badly injured as well so she had to stay in the medicine den.

But where was Dapplepaw?

The tortoiseshell apprentice barely left Whitepaw's side, she was supposed to be a warrior too. But he spotted her in the crowd, she shook her head and instead of a frown, she gave him a smile.

She had intended on failing her warrior assesment just to be with Whitepaw..

Pinestar silenced the clan with a raise of his tail "With something bad, comes something good. After the rain had made our prey supply scarce, it also resulted in a lush green better forest, attracting prey to settle in after days of our hunger. And with new life, comes new warriors. Today, is the ceremony for two of our apprentices, who had passed their warrior's assessment."

Tawnypaw was the first to be called, he held his chin up high, confidence in his movements.

"I, Pinestar, leader of ThunderClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them as a warrior in their turn."

He looked at the pale gray tom beside Thrushpaw.

"Tawnypaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior and to protect and defend your clan, even at the cost of your life?"

With ease, he nodded his head and meowed "I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Tawnypaw, from this moment now on, you will be known as Tawnyspots. StarClan honors your strength and courageousness, as we welcome you as a warrior of ThunderClan."

Pinestar's muzzle lay on Tawnyspot's forehead, while he licked his shoulder like in tradition. The clan cheered his name. Next, it was Thrushpaw's turn.

"Thrushpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior and to protect and defend your clan, even at the cost of your life?" He looked at Pinestar with none of the confidence Tawnyspots had. A lot of thoughts echoed in his head.

Do I deserve this?

Maybe I'm not ready.

I might mess this up!

At the corner of his eye, two of his littermates were side by side now. Dapplepaw smiled, knowing that her brother was hesitating to answer. Among them three, he was the soft and unsure one, the other two were confident and stubborn. Their mother used to have to urge him to leave the nursery to play, saying it was okay to be a bit rough. She whispered something to the gray tom and he nodded.

Tawnyspots and Dapplepaw shaking/tilting their heads diagonally in a fast way, as if they were pouring water out of their ears.

They are doing it again..

And just like that, a memory suddenly appeared to his mind and left as quickly as it came.

He inhaled deeply, and smiled at his leader who waited for his response.

"I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Thrushpaw, from this moment now on, you will be known as Thrushpelt. StarClan honors your loyalty and passion, as we welcome you as a warrior of ThunderClan."

He and his brother turned around to look at the crowd of cats who looked at them with pride and happiness.

"Tawnyspots! Thrushpelt!"

Dapplepaw was cheering for them, Whitepaw and Specklepaw as well. Thrushpelt imagined their mother Rainfur being a part of the crowd as she would cheer for them. Yes, they had faced a very difficult obstacle that resulted in deaths because of starvation, and he wants no one to ever die that way again.

His eyes trailed to Moonflower, who was at the back of the crowd, smiling at him. Glancing at her swollen belly, he vowed to himself to never let any future kits to experience what he did.

"I promise to serve ThunderClan and every clan member in need."

He mumbled to himself, determination is evident.

↠ E l e v e n ↞

"Wake Up Fleabag, Time to Leave Soon." a voice of a cat whispered softly.

Thrushpelt grunted as Tawnyspots ruffled the fur on his head. With a chuckle his brother gave him time to get ready as he padded out the den. The sandy brown warrior licked his messy pelt as quickly as he can before coming out.

The sunlight blinded him for a moment, before his eyes adapted to the bright area. ThunderClan as always seems to be alive and loud in the morning.

"Now-- wait!!"

A flash of white and black fur ran up to him as the cat leaped on his back. He let out a surprised yowl as he staggered and sat down, the cat rolling off of him. He looked at the sneaky warrior.

Patchkit.

Leopardkit approached the surprised tom as she bowed her head to him "We're sorry Thrushpelt, we thought you were Adderfang. Please don't get mad.."

I never get mad..how do you do that?

He smiled at the two nervous kits "Its fine, I don't mind the sudden attack. I feel wide awake now." He chuckled, making the two kits feel at ease. "And I suppose I have to keep silent at your plans to your father that requires surprise attacks?" The two kits nodded, he gave them one last smile before padding off, observing his surroundings.

Right by the warriors den, Sunfall was sharing a large rabbit with Robinwing, Tawnyspots & Fuzzypelt. Pinestar was dozing off on the highrock, Dapplepaw and Whitepaw were battle playing, and

besides that, everything seemed normal.

"Oh, and Thrushpelt has come out of the warrior's den." He knew it was Moonflower by the sound of it. *Did she finally let her kits out?*

"Didn't Thrushpelt grow properly?" A sound of a little kit asked.

"No, little one—he's just the
youngest warrior. He received his name only a quarter
moon ago. He'll grow—you'll see."

He turned his head to see the one who asked about him. There beside Moonflower, were two little kits. One had gray markings and the fur as white as a fawn's belly, at least that's what his old mentor used to compare it with when he had talked to her before. The other one was a rare pelt color he had ever seen.

An unusual shade of gray that looks blue..ish. The sunlight shone down on the she-kit, her fur actually looking very blue. She was caught staring at him and she quickly looked away, embarassed that he must have noticed her question and her staring.

"Hey Thrushpelt join us!" Tawnyspots called for him as he made his brother sit beside him.

He was given the rabbit "We can't finish it all, you can share with us." The tom was really hungry so he thankfully did.

Sunfall licked his lips in satisfaction, his belly full "So, you'll all be assigned for the border patrol after this. Any questions?"

While the other warriors are talking, Thrushpelt looked at his body and then at his brother's. Despite him being the eldest among the three, Tawnyspots was the biggest while he is almost the size of his younger sister Dapplepaw. But still, he did notice that he was the smallest and that their foster sister Whitepaw was almost bigger than him..

"Deep in thought?" Thrushpelt nodded at his brother "Come on, tell us what's on your mind."

"Well, do you think I'm small?"

They just chuckled at his question.

Tawnyspots stiffled a laugh "Should I answer a yes or do I have to deny to make you feel better?"

"Tawnyspots!"

Fuzzypelt laughed at him as he touched his shoulder with a tail "Of course you are small now..we are older than you. Why ask that question?"

"I heard someone ask why I'm small..and I felt embarassed because I'm older than Tawnyspots by a few moments but he's already close to Sunfall's height."

Tawnyspots gave him a teasing smile "Which means I should be the oldest. But seriously, you'll grow soon..we've been warriors for barely a moon, now, who was the cat who brought that stuff all into your head?"

"Moonflower's gray kit." he meowed.

"Oh, you mean Bluekit?" The mention of Moonflower's name made Sunfall's eyes light up like a firefly. *I wonder why..* "She's the feisty one among them two, the white one is Snowkit. Just when Bluekit opened her eyes for the first time she immediately had accidentally wake up Stonepelt from his nap when she came in the warrior's den and then entered Pinestar's den all in one day."

"She'll be quite a fine warrior, and possibly a curious apprentice, just like her parents." Robinwing commented.

"And who knows?" Fuzzypelt joined in "Maybe you'll be the one to mentor her Thrushpelt."

The thought of mentoring his former mentor's kit excited Thrushpelt. He wasn't given any apprentices at all so maybe she could be his first.

"Oh look, their father is coming."

The warriors watched as Stormtail appeared from the gorse tunnel

with a large squirrel. They can see both his kits' eyes widen in awe at the sight of the prey. He placed it on the fresh kill pile as he looked around, spotting his mate who smiled at him warmly.

A purr rumbled in the queen's throat. “Stormtail.” Moonflower beckoned him toward Snowkit and Bluekit with her tail. “Come and meet your kits.”

The two parents had started talking once he had reached them. Tawnyspots and the others continued to chat intead of eavesdropping, giving them some privacy. Thrushpelt had also wanted to stop listening but the discussion was so boring and his sensitive hearing decided not to listen.

“Will you teach us how to catch squirrels?” Snowkit asked, her tail stirring up the dust behind her.

“Your mentors will teach you,” Stormtail replied. “I hope Pinestar chooses well for you.”

Rainfur promised she would be the one to teach me how hunt thrushes and rabbits. Why would Stormtail pass up that special moment to their future mentors?

Then, he noticed Adderfang come out from the den with a yawn. With mews of delight, Leopardkit and Patchkit pounced on him. Leopardkit clung to her father’s tail while Patchkit landed squarely on his shoulders. Adderfang staggered and, with an exaggerated grunt of surprise, collapsed dramatically to the ground. Leopardkit and Patchkit leaped onto his belly, squeaking, but Adderfang tumbled them off with a purr and chased them away behind the den. Thrushpelt notice Bluekit look at the other kits and their father playing then back at her own father.

“Pinestar has asked me to share prey with him,”

Leaving already?

Bluekit blinked. “Now?” She looked dissapointed that she had only get to see her father for barely even the span of time of a ceremony “Can we come with you?”

Stormtail’s gaze flashed toward her, and she flinched for some reason.

Did he glare at her or something? Thrushpelt didn't like the sad look on her face when the faint voice of answer came from her father.

“Kits should stay near the nursery.”

With that he padded off, leaving his mate and two kits, one who seemed oblivious to the tom's actions and the other one who had actually noticed the unusual behavior of her father. But then he stopped in his tracks and turned to face them.

Is he going to say 'I love you' or maybe realize family time is better?

“Stonepelt told me you woke him up yesterday,” he growled at Bluekit. “Stay out of the warriors’ den.” He swung his head around and walked off. Bluekit stared after him, hollow with disappointment.

Thrushpelt felt something rumble in his throat, his fur bristled as his tail kept flicking. His eyes focused on the bluish gray tom who picked up his squirrel from the pile then approach Pinestar who had woken up already.

He didn't like the way he treated his daughter and how he made her feel like she had done something against the code. And the fact its their first actual meeting really brings the thought of a bad impression to herself instead of him.

How dare he act like that to a newborn kit. If I were her father, I would have gently told her not to do something, not growl in her face. Its like he treated her like a RiverClan invader!

"Thrushpelt, calm down!"

He felt a paw rub his shoulder, calming him. He saw Sunfall and the others look at him in confusion and fear. Tawnyspots had a concerned look on his face.

"W-what happened?" He asked.

The ThunderClan deputy was the one to answer "We were wondering why you're silent then all of a sudden you started growling like crazy!"

"Oh..sorry, I was just..annoyed at something."

"Annoyed?!" Tawnyspots echoed in disbelief "Whatever annoyed you must be *way* more than that. You barely get annoyed, you're never growling like that too. You can use that to make even a senior warrior hesitate facing you in battle!"

Robinwing meowed in agreement "I'm sure I would."

Thrushpelt smoothened his pelt, when he glanced up he saw Moonflower ushering her kits back to the nursery. His clanmates were ready to head out as they finished grooming themselves as well.

"Remember this is a border patrol, not a battle one." Sunfall reminded them. "But if ShadowClan or RiverClan decides that it is, one of you come back for backup. If possible maybe make Thrushpelt growl at them like he did just now."

Thrushpelt felt himself be warm in embarassment "I didn't mean to growl," he meowed.

"It's fine, I'm happy you finally know the feeling of being annoyed. You'll be our secret weapon for ShadowClan." Fuzzypelt laughed at Tawnyspots' comment "Yeah, those mangy fox-hearts will fear us now. Seeing that our little warrior can make such noises."

"Am I really that little?"

"Yeah," The three meowed in unison, teasing him.

↠ T w e l v e ↞

After The Border Patrol, Everything Passed By in a Blur.
Whitepaw had already been healed a while ago and was training at the same time with both Specklepaw and Dapplepaw. But today this day is their special day.

Thrushpelt and Tawnyspots were assigned to be the special warriors to keep an eye on all three apprentices with their mentors. The sun hasn't even risen from the sky but all the apprentices were already awake and hyper.

"You guys are up early, what's going on?" Tawnyspots acted oblivious to the occasion today. Dapplepaw was the over-excited one to answer before the two did.

"Today is our warrior assessment!" She kept bouncing up and down like she was when they were kits.

Whitepaw traced her claw on the dirt "Is it okay to feel excited but..nervous?"

Thrushpelt smiled, knowing the feeling of how he was both excited yet anxious to do the assessment after turning down Pinestar's offer of being a warrior after the badger attack. "I never knew anyone who was not. Just do what you've all been doing already, you'll do great."

Specklepaw smiled in gratitude at the tom's words, seeing how it made her sister feel at ease.

Dapplepaw looked at her two brothers with curiosity "Why are you two awake so early by the way?"

"Dawn patrol."

"Only you two?" Specklepaw raised a brow at them.

Thrushpelt decided to play along with Tawnyspots "Of course we'll

wait for Sunfall to assign the others. Why do you think its only us?"

No one had answered when the three silhouettes of warriors appeared out of the warrior's den.

Robinwing shot Specklepaw a look to stop her from asking anymore questions "I think we'll start now before you three start pestering the *'dawn patrol'*."

"We weren't pestering them! We were just..prying for answers." Dapplepaw explained.

Smallear scoffed "Sounds irritating and its the same thing. But its true that Specklepaw was just asking a question."

Specklepaw licked the ruffled fur on her chest so Thrushpwlt couldn't see the embarassed expression she would always have when the warrior came in her defense. The two brothers knew that Smallear had taken a liking to their foster sister, just by the way he'd offer her a tasty catch or help her with apprentice duties that no one liked to be doing. Whitepaw had also noticed that but she was delighted that her mentor liked her sister, she says that Specklepaw deserves someone to make her 'happy' since she can't be the only one who does..besides their foster littermates.

"Ah, Smallear..always defending Specklepaw, its so cute." A deep voice meowed from behind.

Even though no one can see the cat's face yet, their tails flicked in annoyance while Dapplepaw did not hide her true feelings as she let out a soft growl, earning her a soft cuffing on the ear by Robinwing. Tawnyspots backed away when the cat was near, hiding the half of his body where the back of his pelt was fluffed.

Robinwing nodded at the cat's direction "The apprentices will start their assesment now, Windflight."

It wasn't long before Moonflower had given birth when news spread that Poppydawn was expecting kits, the father was no other than Windflight himself. Dapplepaw was the one most upset about how the red furred she-cat had found happiness with the tom she had

used to call 'father'. Tawnyspots and the others also did not like the news that their father was going to have a new litter with someone that wasn't Rainfur, but they kept their thoughts to themselves as they avoided the expecting queen altogether. Thrushpelt did not share the same emotion as his littermates though but rather felt..happiness. He had congratulated Poppydawn despite his littermates' glares. Looking back at that now as he looked at his sister, he didn't know if he should feel guilty.

Poppydawn had managed to avoid getting hate because we kept the truth from the clan till today. Was Dapplepaw right that we should just tell the truth..?

Glancing at the nursery, he can see a shade of red fur in the dark. Poppydawn was sleeping beside Moonflower and her kits, one of her red paws was on her slightly swollen belly as a smile was etched on her face.

Even till today, my answer would be a no. Poppydawn deserves to be happy with him..since I know we can't be now.

The mentors guided their apprentices to the gorse tunnel.

"And remember, your hunting grounds are only from the *Owl tree* until *Sunningrocks*." Robinwing said, loud enough for the two brothers to hear as her amber eyes glanced at them from behind.

They waited for a few moments after they had dissappeared, before following.

The sun had emitted a soft glow that it was enough to make them easily see their surroundings. The birds were shaking their feathers from the branches as they chirped to wake up the others. They had passed mice and squirrels, the little critters lucky for today because the two warriors are not going to hunt them down today.

"You wanna split up?" Tawnyspots asked him. "Its okay if we stick together if you want though."

Thrushpelt shook his head "No, no its fine." he pointed his tail to one direction "You go to the Owl tree, I'm going to wait for them to

hunt at sunningrocks."

The two said their goodbyes as they sprinted off, leaving so fast that a squirrel in a tree jumped in surprise at the two figures that dissappeared. Thrushpelt's paws drummed rhythmically on the forest floor as he felt the wind ruffle his short fur, no problem since it won't get into tangled knots like his sister. He never knew why, but when it came to running the three cats always outran their two foster littermates, but he was the fastest among them. Even his mentors had a hard time catching up when he wanted to race them to camp. It was a shame that he only realized that he was the fastest when he became a warrior.

If only I knew it was me who was really the fastest, I could have brought the others earlier and Whitepaw would have been safe. She and Specklepaw could have been warriors while Dapplepaw didn't have to fail her assessment before..

The wind must have made the thoughts in his head lighten as a positive thought conquered ove the negative one.

That's all in the past. At least they are having their assessment today and soon they don't have to worry about mentors scolding them when Whitepaw makes us do fun stuff.

He chuckled at the thought of the she cat and her 'ideas'.

It didn't take long till the pile of rocks came into his sight. The river looked as mesmerizing and as dangerous as it was before. But as he drew near, two familiar scents were thick in the air, making his natural instincts kick in and make him go into stealth mode.

He hid behind one of the big rocks..maybe called a boulder but he didn't care. The sounds of hissing and spitting can be heard as he tried to find out who were they. The sandy brown warrior peeked out a bit (something he seemed to be really good at for some reason) as he sees a tortoiseshell she-cat arching her back.

Dapplepaw..

He was sure he knew that scent.

Dapplepaw's fur was bristling as her tail kept lashing "Get off ThunderClan territory, RiverClan tresspasser!" she snarled.

Where was Windflight?

The RiverClan cat was crouching low, his pelt wet as it clung to his huge frame. It seemed that he was almost the size of an experienced warrior, but he is acting like an apprentice, since warriors never crouch before an apprentice.

The RiverClan tom glanced at the silvery thing at Dapplepaw's side then back at her "I swear I didn't mean to tresspass, honest! I was just fishing and the current swept me here.."

Thrushpelt observed the tom a little bit more, he had a reddish-brown pelt, similar to some foxes he had seen from afar during patrols. He had a sleek pelt, which as he had already seen, clung to his well-muscled frame. It would be a wonder why the tom showed submission when it seemed that he was bigger and stronger than her.

Dapplepaw moved the fish farther away from him "That's no excuse!" with that said she snarled, striking a blow to the tom's muzzle, making him yowl in response. She did not stop there and charged at him, both of them toppling over as the fish comedically just kept flopping around at the side. His sister managed to scare him as the RiverClan tom pushed her away with a grunt, slipping into the river as smooth as an otter.

The ThunderClan apprentice stood straight as she puffed up her chest with pride "And don't come back!" With a snort she raised her chin high, her tail raised in the air as she padded away from the rocks. Thrushpelt moved around the rock, hoping she won't notice his presence. Dapplepaw was already carrying a sort of bird and a plump mouse as she padded off to the direction of the Owl tree, maybe going there to find better catches.

Thrushpelt shook his pelt to as he emerged from behind the rock. He was about to leave till he remembered something.

The fish!

When he was about to find the fish to maybe bring back to camp, the reddish brown tom was already creeping up to it, making the ThunderClan tom surprised that he didn't hear him come out the water.

Come to think of it, I didn't see his head bob up in the water. Can RiverClan really hold their breaths that long?

He approached the tom, who cowered before him just like he did with Dapplepaw. His amber eyes did not show any fear though nor did he smell its scent.

"You can stand up, what's your name?" Thrushpelt asked. The tom was shocked that he did not attack but followed.

"Oakpaw," the tom meowed with confidence, seeing that he did not show any authorative growl.

"Thrushpelt. What are you doing on ThunderClan territory?"

Oakpaw glanced at his fish again and at the river. *Is he thinking about staying for the prey or to bail already?* "I got swept by the river current while I was fishing. I didn't mean to come here.."

Thrushpelt looked at the river. It seemed to flow as always but when he looked closer there were ripples that flowed in a circular way. Moonflower used to take him to the river to collect water in the moss and theyd also watch young RiverClan apprentices suddenly yowl in surprise as they swam in the different direction while their mentors calmed them down.

He flicked his ear in acknowledgement "I believe you."

Oakpaw looked at him in surprise "R-really?"

Thrushpelt moved to the side, giving him acess to take the fish "ThunderClan doesen't like the taste of fish, just like RiverClan doesen't like the taste of squirrel. You may take that and leave."

"Oakpaw!!"

The two toms looked to where a cat called. From across the river,

Rippleclaw and Ottersplash was with a RiverClan tom who was the one who called. *Must be Oakpaw's mentor..*

"Get back here, you're tresspassing!" His mentor yowled

Rippleclaw growled loudly "We told you that you can't go fishing at Sunningrocks. Hailstar will have your pelt!" Ottersplash yelled at Thrushpelt other words that were hurtful and to give them their apprentice.

That's when the sandy brown warrior noticed real fear flash in Oakpaw's eyes. He too must have noticed him see that as he hung his head low in shame.

"I didn't really mean to come here, but I tried fishing in your part of the river, and the current really pulled me closer.." he said in a hush tone, his paws shuffling.

Oh, he didn't tell me everything..but he didn't lie too.

Thrushpelt yelled back at the other warriors "He didn't fish here, he got swept by the river!"

He pushed the fish to Oakpaw, smiling at him "Your secret's safe with me. I saw you avoid fighting with my sister earlier and I am grateful for that. But this is the first & last time you will do this..unless RiverClan already claimed sunningrocks, understood?"

Oakpaw swiftly gave the fish (who still kept flopping and was close to the edge of the riverbank) a killing bite till it went limp. He looked up at Thrushpelt in gratitude as he gave him a charming yet goofy smile "Thank you.."

"No problem, hope to see you at the gathering and hopefully not in the battlefield."

"Oakpaw!"

The apprentice flinched at the angry tone of his clanmates as he quickly carried the fish and dove in the river. After a few moments his head bobbed up in the water, he looked back at him as he blinked in acknowledgement, silent words shared.

I'll never forget this day.. He can imagine were the words he meant to say.

As the RiverClan cats were already long gone, Thrushpelt bounded up the rocks and towards the Owl tree, wanting to see how the others were doing. He smiled at the thought of the tom's imaginary words, which he responded.

Me too..

↠ T h i r t e e n ↞

"White-eye! Speckletail! Dappletail!" The Crowd Chanted Their Names. The three new warriors beamed with pride. During their assessment White-eye had caught a large squirrel, a vole & two mice only using her sharp hearing which was really impressive since she had failed catching a blackbird when she focused with her eyes.

Speckletail had also caught a squirrel, but instead of a vole and mice she had caught two sparrows and the blackbird that White-eye chased, she wanted her to have it but her sister said it was her catch so she deserved it. Dappletail was the only one who decided to go to sunningrocks first and that's where she caught a mouse and the moorhen. Although it seemed that she only caught those. However, she helped the two sisters hunt down a rabbit that came from Fourtrees and possibly from WindClan, since their stench and a claw marks were on it. That white furred rabbit was their best catch they had hunted together. Pinestar wanted to give them the same last names showing their closeness of being sisters, but the name 'Whitetail' seemed weird since her fur was actually a pale gray and was just mostly mistaken as white.

White-eye loved the second option of her name though, saying that it really suited her. Speckletail and Dappletail liked theirs, since they too had become closer during their apprenticeship, sharing the same love and concern for White-eye.

When Thrushpelt had arrived at the Owl tree Windflight wasn't there too. So he was the one to inform them of how Dappletail did, having to lie that he saw her catch the two pieces of prey, even though he didn't even know really when and how. The confrontation with Oakpaw though is what made Dappletail pass her assessment too, her boasting about how she defeated Oakpaw, which surprised the two warriors since they knew the reddish-brown tom was bigger than her. When they had gone back to camp were Windflight was already there sharing tongues with

Poppydawn, making the two mentors and the apprentices frustrated, but silent since his mate will bring future clanmates soon. Thrushpelt saw how he took the rabbit his daughter(s) caught with no hesitation as he brought it to his mate. Weedwhisker had his eyes set on that piece of prey, only for the gleam in his eyes to dull when someone else took it. Good thing when Windflight was sent to a patrol Poppydawn was too full as she brought the large prey to the elders.

When the ceremony ended the first one to greet the three was no other than Tawnyspots. He ran up to them as he did a flying leap, tackling all three to the ground with his body. Speckletail growled in response.

"Get off us flea-brain!" she growled, although there was a hint of a smile on her face.

The three she-cats used all their might to turn the rock around and tackle him. The tom let out choking noises as White-eye dragged him down by the shoulders near his throat while Dappletail and Speckletail towered over him and pushed the tom downwards.

"Thrushpelt..help!" The tom pleaded, making the she-cats giggle.

Thrushpelt chuckled as he backed away. Tawnyspots' eyes widened in playful fear.

"Don't leave..-ack!!"

By now he was far across the clearing. *That's far enough..*
He bunched up his haunches, his claws flexing as they lightly scratched the dirt.

Now!

Pushing his hind legs as strongly as he can, he made a run for it, his front claws gripping the soft ground as he pulled and used it to push himself faster. Dappletail looked up at him and it was her turn to widen her eyes in fear.

"No..Stop!!" She shrieked, watching his move and trying to run away.

"Oh no you're not." Tawnyspots used a free arm to pull her close, making her squirm in panic. The other two found out too late why she was desperate to leave till a shadow loomed over them.

Thud.

Thrushpelt landed his body on top of the two, groans followed. Tawnyspots growled lowly from underneath them all "You can get off me.." They all laughed at his growl of desperation to get out the pile. Their clanmates looked at them in amusement, delighted at the close relationship of the littermates.

A little white furry body bounded up to them "What are you all doing?" the little one squeaked.

Thrushpelt got off, followed by the two. Tawnyspots muttered a curse as he let go of Dappletail. "We were just..playing," White-eye meowed to Snowkit.

Bluekit tipped her head to the side as she stood next to Snowkit "Aren't warriors not allowed to play because that's what kits do?"

"Well..we are all kit-brained.." Tawnyspots murmured, making them chuckle lowly.

"That's just you," Dappletail replied.

"Then I'll gladly accept that true fact."

"You guys, the kit just asked a question." White-eye gave them a look before crouching down to face Bluekit "Well..its true that warriors are no longer kits, but we were littermates when we were kits, and we are still littermates even when we become warriors. Do you want to act different and no longer make jokes or chase your sister around when you grow up?" The blue furred kit shook her head, as well as her sister.

"I want me and Bluekit to be close, even when we grow up," Snowkit meowed, making Bluekit look at her sister with affection "Would we be distant when we grow up?"

"Not if you do something about it."

"Its okay to play with littermates to keep the fun, love and the bond you have ever since you were little." Thrushpelt had unconsciously added as he looked at the two kits. "And that's what other warriors do sometimes even if they are not kin. Its what keeps clanmates distracted sometimes from the dangers outside and to be close with the clanmates inside. You must learn how to make the most of it while you're young, before you are going to be given duties that might keep you away from each other for a while and be a thorn to your bond. "

Bluekit stared at Thrushpelt before she nodded her head "I undersand.." she muttered softly.

Snowkit squealed as she tackled her sister "C'mon Bluekit, let's play now!" the two she-kits ran off, the deep explanation to them was still not important to them which was okay. They just chuckled at them playing with the moss ball. Thrushpelt saw Moonflower look at him and his littermates as she smiled.

"You didn't have to explain that much, by tomorrow they will forget what we said." Tawnyspots stretched his legs as he meowed.

White-eye playfully cuffed the tom by the ear "I don't think so, Bluekit was listening and she even nodded."

"She did not!"

"She did too!"

"Did not!"

"Did to-"

Thrushpelt muted their bickering again as he touched Dappletail's shoulder with his tail "We need to talk."

They padded out the gorse tunnel, leaving the two to bicker while Speckletail cheered them on. The forest felt peaceful as their paws walked its floor. The light shone down on the trees that made shadows from the leaves.

"So..you attacked Oakpaw this morning."

Dappletail huffed "Its not attacking when I was just defending myself."

"It didn't seem like you were when he was the one crouching.."

Silence.

They walked around some more till the she-cat spoke "You were there..weren't you?"

"Yes."

They were silent once again, and this time he was the first one to speak.

"You know, there's a difference when it comes to defending territory and attacking cats on your territory."

"Really? Do tell," she meowed sarcastically.

"Well, defending territory is when someone is attacking. And hueting someone on your own territory makes them be the ones defending and you attacking." He looked at her in seriousness "Listen, Oakpaw did nothing wrong and he really did get swept by a current. A true warrior must learn how to pick a fight when the time is right. He did not fight back and just simply swam away, meaning what he said is true. Yet you still gave him quite a scar he won't forget."

They turned tail as their direction went straight back to camp. "Your vigil shall start soon. By then you can imagine being in Oakpaw's..-er..paws. Would you feel like it was fair to be attacked when you crossed a border because of an accident with prey you already caught on your side?"

Dappletail looked at her paws and just murmured an "I'll think about it." as she met up with White-eye and Speckletail who asked questions to where they've been.

Tawnyspots approached him "What did you guys do?" he asked.

Thrushpelt glanced back at his sister, who looked to be deep in

thought.

"Just had a talk..hopefully it helps us be bonded even more."

↠ F o u r t e e n ↞

A Lot of Things Happened During The Past Moon. But it was for the better.

Speckletail and Smallear officially became mates, as predictable as it can be. Thrushpelt barely sees her because she's either on patrols or taking a walk with her mate by the river. White-eye was happy for her sister, joking about how she was free from the overprotective yet supportive pale ginger she-cat.

"Its better that she has someone to bother care for." The she-cat purred "But I gotta admit that I miss her presence just encouraging me to do stupid stuff at the side."

Every now and then Thrushpelt's paws brought himself to the nursery even without noticing he was actually there. His inner sense always made him check on either Poppydawn or Moonflower's kits, Snowkit being the one to respond and squeak in delight while Bluekit eyed him curiously, her eyes gleaming in the dark shadows. And he also noticed that they got their eye colors, both have blue eyes, different shades though. Snowkit's was as blue as the sky, Bluekit's was more of a darker color, color of the river during a warm afternoon in Greenleaf.

And just today, Thrushpelt was headed for the nursery, a sparrow in his mouth as he was taking it to Poppydawn for her share. But then he saw a fiery ginger tom leave the den, a smile on his face.

He looks moony..

"Sunfall?" The ThunderClan deputy snapped out of his daze as he loooked at the warrior. "What are you doing here?"

Sunfall flicked his tail at the entrance of the nursery "I caught a vole and thought if Moonflower would like something to eat already."

"Didn't Stormtail bring her anything?"

At the mention of the senior warrior his eyes darkened. *Didn't he and Stormtail get along?* "He haven't even brought her anything for several sunrises the last time I checked." He grumbled, padding away.

Who put fire ants in his nest?

He just shrugged it off as he entered the den. The two kits were chasing each other around while the queens were eating their prey.

"Oh, hi Thrushpelt!" Moonflower purred "Care for another groom?"

"The thought of a groom is tempting but it seems weird if Bluekit and Snowkit see me, even the others," Thrushpelt meowed, whiskers twitching as he placed the prey down. "I was going to give Poppydawn her share for today."

But the she-cat he mentioned seemed to be busy at the moment, finishing the remnants that had looked like it came and was actually a mouse. The red furred queen licked her lips to get any morsel on her whiskers as she looked up at him. "Windflight already gave me my share for today..we'll be also sharing his catch later, sorry," she apologized, making the tom just nod and pick up the warm feathery animal.

"Its okay, at least you're fed."

He said a muffled meow of goodbye before leaving the nursery. As he was about to put it back on the pile he can see a pale ginger tabby eye his prey with hunger nearby. They eyes locked onto each other as the tom chuckled, dropping the bird on his paws.

"Hey Speckletail, have you had your share for today?" His foster sister shook her head. He gestured the she-cat to come over.

"Here." Thrushpelt gave her the sparrow, Speckletail bowed her head slightly in thanks as she sat down to eat, the tom laying down beside her. The she-cat was swiftly taking bites out of the prey, like it was the middle of leafbare.

"Woah there, why are you so hungry? You just ate a fat vole the other day, and I saw you share the leftover squirrel with White-eye

this dawn." Speckletail had finished eating the whole thing on her own as she just shyly smiled at him.

"How about we take a walk in the forest for a while. Laying down after a full stomach would make me fatter." She stood up and stretched her legs, gesturing him to follow her to the gorse tunnel.

"Why take a walk?" He asked.

"Uh..would you like me to ask Smallear to accompany me instead?"

He barely got to bond with his foster sister so the thought of finally having time with her was delightful.

"No, I'd love to take a walk.."

They climbed up the ravine, with Thrushpelt seeming confused why the she-cat was carefully climbing up the rocks. The molly noticed that he was already up and looking at her in suspicion as she smiled in embarassment.

"I got scratched by a sharp stone once," she said.

The forest was was lively as a newly made apprentice as the two walked side by side, their pawsteps in sync as it softly made rythmic beating noises on the ground. The birds chirped in the trees, while the squirrels had noticed their presence and climbed up towards the trees in a hurry.

Maybe we should tell Sunfall about those squirrels later, it looks like there are plenty of them..

"So.." Thrushpelt's tail brushed itself on the grass, making rustling noises to make the prey alarmed and scatter to not disturb them "What's the real reason you wanted to take me out for a walk?"

"How do you know that there's a reason if I just really wanted to have some time with you?"

"If that was the case you would have brought Tawnyspots, Dappletail and White-eye with us. I know that I'm not the first choice to talk to alone for 'quality bonding time' unless you want

advice."

Speckletail went silent for a moment, before sighing in defeat "Yeah..you got me."

Sometimes it just feels good to know that I'm the cat to ask advice from.

They had reached sandy hollow where no cat was. After the three sisters' warrior ceremony, there was no apprentices at the moment. It was the purrfect place to talk since it was quiet till the pale ginger tabby she-cat kicked her paw on the loose sand "I. . .i'm expecting kits."

That's straight to the point.

"Does Smallear know?"

She shook her head "I plan on telling him later, you're the first to know."

The tom felt happy for his littermate, finally having a family of her own. But confusion struck him "Why tell me first?"

That's when the she-cat looked uneasy, her amber eyes looked at him with fear "I don't know why but, I'm scared. What if I won't be a good mother? What if I also die because of hunger? What would ha-

"That's enough," Thrushpelt meowed, putting a paw o her mouth to shut up. Once she kept quiet he spoke "I think that whatever happens, your kits will be all great warriors and you'll not be a good mother at first that's for sure."

"Wow..great encouragement," she muttered.

"You're the one asking me for advice and I'm going to give it to you. Not all queens do it right the first time, but your motherly instincts and the clan will be with you to help raise them. And by then you'll be one of the greatest mothers in all the clans." He smiled reassuringly "I'll make sure you don't die of hunger too by the way. Also, Rainfur used to ask Cloudberry for advice on how to keep you all behave because back then you guys were all over the place."

"And I clearly also remember mother asking Cloudberry too on why you're not like us, being rowdy kits. But I guess you were mature and full of knowledge, since I am asking advice from you now." She chuckled.

"Who says I can't be rowdy?"

With a playful growl the sandy-brown tom tackled the she-cat, who let out a funny squeal like a kit's as she gets pushed down to the ground. Speckletail fought back playfully as the two wrestled each other on the floor, making clouds of sand surround them. But then the molly shrieked all of a sudden making the tom panic and leap away from her.

"I'm sorry that I hurt you!" Thrushpelt walked around her in circles, looking for faint claw marks thinking that he must have accidentally unsheathed his claws and scratched her.

Speckletail groaned as she shakily stood up "n-no its..fine.." she breathed heavily "Its just that, the kits seem to be squirming a lot and it feels weird."

Thrushpelt sighed in relief "Well, it proves that they *will* be great warriors. Having the kindness of their mother."

"That would be amazing. But for StarClan's sake I hope they won't be like White-eye, I'm having a lot of trouble managing a feather-brained idiot of a sister.."

↠ F i f t e e n ↞

After The Two Came Back to Camp, Smallear Was the Next to Know. It didn't take long for the news to spread like wildfire around camp. All three of their littermates had stormed to the two who were sharing tongues near the nursery.

"How could you?! I thought we were sisters!" White-eye wailed.

Speckletail lazily blinked her eyes at the she-cat "We are, but if I told you first I'm pretty sure you'd tell the whole forest before I can even have time to tell Smallear. Also, I asked Thrushpelt for advice."

White-eye just grunted and moved on to talking about another topic. Tawnyspots and Dappletail sat beside the others as they talked about the future kits

"How many do you think you'll have?" White-eye pondered "Oh! I hope you get like..five."

Speckletail looked at her sister in horror "Dear StarClan I hope not" she shook her head wildly "I had trouble watching over you and Dappletail alone, how much more more kits that no doubt might get your curiosity and determination .."

"I wasn't *that* bad!"

"You and Dappletail literally were forced to eat the fish you caught at night after Hailstar and Pinestar found you guys hunting by the river to know what they tasted like"

All of them laughed till the tortoiseshell she-cat spoke as well. Dappletail's eyes gleamed in excitement, "Oh it wasn't that all bad, at least it was memorable, besides.." she sighed wistfully "I've always wanted to have kits of my own someday"

Thrushpelt tilted his head curiously at his sister, Tawnyspots had

the same expression as she had the same moony face that their mother had before. The two toms looked at each other

'Who do you think the tom is?' Tawnyspots mouthed

'No clue, wanna find out later?' The other tom replied softly

They silently agreed to each other as they continued to talk and celebrate Speckletail's pregnancy. It didn't seem like time passed at all till it was almost sundown. The siblings bade each other farewell as they parted ways for the night before they all sleep together in the warriors den. The two toms waited till they notice something amiss with their sister (which happened) as they realize she was heading for the ravine to leave. They swiftly followed

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The two toms were silent.

It had felt like moons since they were following their sister. The tortoiseshell she-cat seems to already know where she's going, but they figured it wasn't a border patrol nor a hunting one since she passed by the trees she should've marked and the mice who unintentionally ran across her paws.

The sandy-brown tom turned to the gray tom, both their eyes gleaming in curiosity

"Do you think the tom is from another clan?" Thrushpelt whispered, dodging the sticks on the grass he might step on.

"No idea" Tawnyspots replied, mimicking his older brother's actions "But if it was, what do we do?" It took a moment for them to answer within a heartbeat

"Yeah we keep that a secret" They both chuckled, knowing that they'd definitely get upset if their sister broke the warrior code but then again in the end would be willing to hide this secret, they also know White-eye & Speckletail would've done the same, their bonds unbreakable, in their perspective anyways.

They realized that the grass started to lessen as the feeling of sand was on their paws, they were on the edge of the forest near the river, sunningrocks was already just several tail lengths away. Thrushpelt felt a sense of deja vu as he remembered that this was the place where he watched her attack Oakpaw.

"I think she's meeting that fox furred RiverClan tom" he whispered to his younger brother.

Tawnyspots raised a brow "You mean Oakpaw? Are you sure *he's* the mystery tom she's mooning over?"

"Who's there?!"

The two were about to talk about it further till they ended up stopping abruptly the moment their sister had also stopped, looking around attentively to see any possible stalkers, hopefully unaware of their presence. The tortoiseshell she-cat started to walk towards their direction so Thrushpelt suddenly shoved his brother behind the rocks.

"Watch it!" Tawnyspots hissed softly when some of the smaller sharp edged pebbles grazed their fur, their soft paws preferably wanting to feel the grass of the forest rather than the riverbank's surface. Thrushpelt looked at him apologetically but covered his hissing with his tail on the muzzle in fear of them getting spotted.

The forest was silent besides the occasional chirping of the birds up high till the sound of grass rustling followed by the sudden sound shift meaning they were walking near sunningrocks now

"Is that you?" The toms can hear their sister's mew.

A low rumble of a chuckle can be heard as a rough voice spoke up

"Indeed it is Dappletail~"

Thrushpelt froze, the voice of the tom so familiar that he felt his name was on the tip of his tongue. Tawnyspots must have recognized the voice too because he stayed silent out of curiosity, not needing his brother's tail to cover his mouth. The two exchanged glances and as always, no words were needed to say what was both on their minds.

*We **have** to take a peek.*

Slowly but stealthily both their heads peeked out from behind sunningrocks, wanting to see their sister's mysterious 'friend.' Ocean blue eyes stared at tortoiseshell, unaware of the two brothers hiding. The she-cat stared back at him as she nuzzled her head to him in greeting.

"Please tell me you're seeing who I'm seeing?" Tawnyspots whispered.

Thrushpelt nodded "Yeh..but, I wish...maybe..they're not.."

It was Stormtail..

SORRRRRRRYYYYY

[image]

I HAD TO DELETE MY WATTPAD AND I FORGOT ABOUT THIS IM SO SORRY 😭

Does anyone still reads this tho? I'd love to honestly continue publishing the other parts while writing them.

I also learned to make better art, so here's Thrushpelt & Bluefur as a peace offer for my disappearance

If anyone wants to see me do more content, you can find my socials on my carrd https://gnlaurasia.carrd.co/

Also I'm currently making a Mapleshade & Blue shadow (Bluefur) AU

👀

UPDATE ON THE SORRY AGAIN-

I HAD TO DELETE WATTPAD AGAIN CUZ NO STORAGE N STUFF JABSJZZKSMAKA

I uploaded Book 2 of the AU series to hopefully get things going lol. Its a spin-off..ish so don't worry about thinking its spoilers.

Also I'm in college now. I remember finishing in 10th grade when I made this series, how time flies lmao 😩😂

C h a n g e s

[image]

Its almost New Year's!! Tysm for everyone who still stuck around and reads this book, I honestly thought about cancelling the series a while ago but your comments of appreciation made my day.

To anyone curious the Warriors Switcheroo AU series consists of 5 books (and counting.)

First two are Thrushpelt & Mapleshade ofc since they're published. To anyone who wants to know the next it'll be *Yellowfang's* turn next 👀

I'll probably upload 1 chapter every 1-2 weeks consistently rather than a bunch every month or two. Can't keep u guys waiting 😷💕

Also belated merry Christmas! Just gonna drop awesome art of my cool gal Pacifica/Oceanbreeze down below. I've been getting better at art and plan on redrawing Thrushpelt's book cover soon!

Rewriting?

[image] [image]

I died again lol sorry

I'm currently in college for almost 10 months and it was just hard to write and study

Anyways, i got some good news & bad news:

The bad news is that i basically lost the files for the other chapters so have to rewrite the plot

The good news?

Thrushpelt is given a bigger role in my enhanced AU

To celebrate almost 3 years since i wrote this book, here's a wip of the new cover (& my new art style 👀)

To ppl who stuck around & waited; thank you so much! It means the world to me 🥺💕✨

(Look at mah bby boi ✨)

NEW COVER!!

[image][image]

After like 3 years I finally redrew & redesigned my Thrushpelt cover lmao

July 2020

I actually made the cover first before even starting to write this book so his AU was supposed to go a different direction. In the end I stuck w/ him & the Bluestar's prophecy era/timeline.

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September 6, 2023

My artstyle changed over the years and decided "Hey, I'm making this book a MAP Call soon anyways, might as well remake the color since I redesigned my design for him."

*By this time I ALSO changed majority of the plot's writing so you'll expect more surprising scenes *winks**

Anyways that's all!